

Hafa Adai!

Sablan-Staffler confident of victory in November's 3-way race. PAGE 2
CNMI visitor arrivals up 1,250% in December 2021. PAGE 5

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Fire engulfs derelict building in Garapan

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services continues to investigate the cause of a fire that engulfed an abandoned structure in Garapan last Friday.

According to a news release from the department, multiple individuals called 911 reporting heavy smoke in Garapan last Friday, Jan. 22, at approximately 4:52pm. It was later determined that the fire had broken out at an abandoned building located between the former Saipan Younis Lounge and Sunnyside Café in Garapan.

The abandoned structure had been serving as a home to a handful of homeless individuals in the area.

Fortunately, there were no fatalities from the fire as *Saipan Tribune* learned from one of the individuals living there that everyone had yet to

See FIRE on Page 4



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
Heavy smoke engulfs the area after a fire broke out at an abandoned building between the former Saipan Younis Lounge and Sunnyside Café in Garapan last Friday. Photo shows the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services responding to the incident.

Sablan-Staffler confident of victory in November's 3-way race

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Christina Marie E. Sablan (D-Saipan), the Demo-

cratic Party's candidate for governor in the November general election, said yesterday that she and her running mate, Rep. Leila

Haveia Fleming C. Staffler (D-Saipan), are confident that they will be victorious in what is shaping out to be a three-way race.

See RACE on Page 4



SCA petition passes 5.2K signatures

» **Torres expresses his support and gratitude for SCA**

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A change.org petition for the Commonwealth Zoning Board to extend Saipan Cares for Animals' stay at its As Gonno location has already garnered 5,289 e-signatures as of 5:35pm yesterday, in a full-throated show

See SCA on Page 4

| Pfizer/BioNTech | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--|--|
| Initiated: | 37,492 | | |
| Fully Vaccinated: | 36,254 | | |

| Moderna | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--|--|
| Initiated: | 5,315 | | |
| Fully Vaccinated: | 5,141 | | |

| Janssen | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--|--|
| Fully vaccinated: | 1,119 | | |

| GUAM | | | |
|-----------|--------|-------|--------|
| OLD | NEW | TOTAL | |
| Positive | 27,207 | 662 | 27,869 |
| Recovered | 19,525 | 0 | 19,525 |
| Active | 7,402 | 662 | 8,064 |
| Deaths | 276 | 4 | 280 |

| SAIPAN | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| OLD | NEW | TOTAL | |
| Positive | 4,246 | 0* | 4,246 |
| Traced via Travel Screening | 487 | 0* | 487 |
| Traced via Community Screening | 3,759 | 0* | 3,759 |
| Deaths | 22 | 0* | 22 |

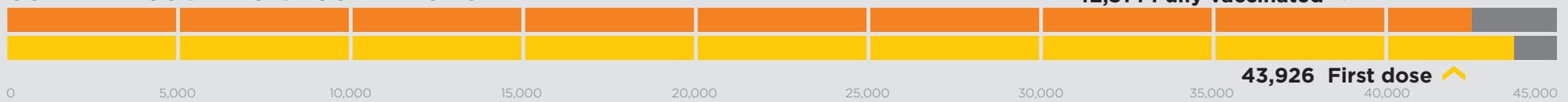
*No update
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
■ Red: Least safe
■ Orange
■ Yellow
■ Blue
■ Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



INSIDE



NATION

The families of all American personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine are told to leave the country.

Page 12



WORLD

Yemen recover five more bodies from the rubble of a prison facility hit by a Saudi-led airstrike.

Page 13



LIFE & STYLE

"Spider-Man: No Way Home" swung back to first place in its sixth weekend in theaters.

Page 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

DLNR to pay ex-biologist unpaid wages while she was pregnant

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources-Division of Fish and Wildlife has agreed to a confidential settlement to pay a former wildlife biologist her earned and unpaid salary, leave time, repatriation costs, damages for medical fees, lost or damaged household goods, and other court costs in the suit alleging discrimination due to her pregnancy.

DeLeon Guerrero: Finance info on ARPA share of NGOs, nonprofits unresponsive

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) has informed the Department of Finance that she received a non-responsive response on one of the seven items she requested in her Open Government Act to obtain the latest information about the CNMI's expenditure plan for the money it got via the American Rescue Plan Act.

DeLeon Guerrero wrote an email to Finance Wednesday last week, thanking it for the response to her OGA request, but pointing out that her review shows it is not responsive to one item—listing of awardees of ARPA allocation for non-governmental organizations/non-profit organizations, the amount of award, and approved purpose of the award.

She said the response she received only shows a total award of \$1,356,696, with a total of \$400,000 amount of disbursement for four awardees which Finance provided copies of.

Furthermore, the senator said, the response that she received states \$750,000 was awarded during fiscal year 2021 and \$2,328,994 has been awarded in the current fiscal year 2022.

"There is no further information nor documentation provided to support these awards

Power service interruption on Friday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption on Jan. 28, 2022, from 9am to 1pm affecting Fina Sisu (Ghoot Lane and Haigue Pl.)

The power outage is needed to allow CUC to replace a rotted primary wooden power pole and to relocate a power pole to the public right-of-way along Ghoot Lane in Finasiusi.

No water well or wastewater facility will be affected.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter on Tuesday granted the parties' stipulation and dismissed the lawsuit filed by Dr. Anne Orlando back in 2018 with prejudice, meaning the case cannot be filed again.

According to the agreement reached between the parties, Orlando and the CNMI government have executed a confidential settlement agreement and release, and that the parties

are bound by this agreement. The district court will still retain jurisdiction to enforce the settlement and all of its terms.

The agreement was signed by Orlando's counsel, attorney Mark Scoggins, and assistant attorney general Keisha Blaise who represents the government.

According to her complaint dated 2018, Orlando claims that DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente, DFW director Manuel Pangelinan, and for-

mer DFW acting director Mike Tenorio discriminated against her due to her pregnancy. The former wildlife biologist further alleged that the defendants constructively terminated her

by failing to pay her salary, wages and or/leave time and benefits. Orlando argued that the defendants violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: discrimination, retali-

ation, and breach of contract.

As relief, Orlando asked the court to order the defendants to pay her earned and unpaid salary, leave time, repatriation costs, damages for medical fees, lost or damaged household goods, and other court costs.

Public warned of high surf, rip currents

The public is being warned that large breaking waves of 7 to 10 feet and dangerous rip currents are present in north and east facing reefs of the Marianas.

A high surf advisory is in effect until 10am today, Tuesday, while a high risk of rip currents is in effect until this afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, the high surf advisory is in place until 10 am Tuesday. The high rip

current risk is in effect through Tuesday afternoon.

These conditions will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Wave models and satellite-derived sea heights show seas slowly subsiding. North and northeasterly swells will continue to support surf of 7 to 10 feet through last night but will continue to subside, with surf expected to fall below hazardous levels

this morning. The surf along east facing shores is expected to fall below 9 feet this afternoon, which would bring the rip current risk down to moderate.

Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions.

The public is reminded to stay out of the water along north and east facing reefs. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. (PR)



DeLeon Guerrero



Atalig

Tribune that it is important to know to date if there had been any changes to the CNMI's

approved expenditure plan that Finance Secretary DLG Atalig first presented last June 4.

She said her office also receives inquiries on funding opportunities and that knowing and having that information will help in their response.

The senator earlier told *Saipan*



A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ACCOUNTANT

For more information, job description and an application visit the Karidat main office at Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, February 11, 2022 AT 4:00 PM

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB) ITB22-CHCC/PH-NCDB-009

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 4, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB22-PAO-42200044

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2022 TIME: 9:00 A.M

"LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "F" FOUR (4) DOOR PICK UP TRUCK FOR THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF-SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORGUCHI BLDG., GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

*FOR YOUR SAFETY AND OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PATRICK C. GUERRERO
GOVERNOR'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

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Bayani to mark 20th anniversary with fundraiser

The Bayani Association will be celebrating its 20th anniversary with a fundraising pageant called "Queen of Drag 2022" on Feb. 5, 2022, Saturday, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Doors will open at 5pm and the show will start at 6:30pm sharp. VIP tickets are being sold for \$50 and general admission tickets will cost \$25.

Proceed from the event will be used for the organization's community projects and a percentage of the profits to be donated for the Typhoon Rai/Odette typhoon victims in the Philippines.

Organizers of the event promise that it will be "a fun-filled entertaining show."

With the CNMI still in a pandemic situation, all CO-

VID-19 protocols will be adhered to and vaccination cards must be presented at the door entrance.

The show's talented participants are Sunshine, Christian, Joan, Cecille, Shine, Rica, Nestea, Noelle, Kristalla, Aileene, and Patrick. They will be competing in the following categories: Fantasy Costumes, Lingerie Wear,

Lipsync Talent, and Evening Gown. The top 5 winners will be receiving cash prizes, sash, bouquets, crowns, and gifts and all non-winners will have consolation prizes. Er-

nie Molina will conceptualize, direct, and choreograph the show.

For more details and inquiries, call association president Annamae Adaza at (670) 285-

4388, vice president Yolanda De Ramos at (670) 989-7836, secretary Marie Paz Meister at (670) 785-0349, or treasurer Ladyvir Canape at (670) 989-2545. (PR)

DeLeon Guerrero expected to introduce resolution to adopt impeachment rules in Thursday's session

The Senate will hold a session this Thursday, during which Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) is expected to formally introduce a resolution that seeks to adopt the Senate impeachment rules of procedure to address the articles of impeachment and conduct the impeachment trial of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Senate President Jude U. Hofsneider (R-Tinian) yesterday called for a session Thursday at 3pm in the Senate's chamber on Capital Hill.

DeLeon Guerrero's Senate Resolution 22-14 seeks to

use the Impeachment Rules of Procedure that the 18th Senate had adopted in 2013 for the impeachment of then-governor Benigno R. Fitial, this time for the impeachment trial proceeding against Torres.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) co-authored Senate Resolution 22-14.

DeLeon Guerrero and Manglona stated in the resolution that it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth to expeditiously conduct the impeachment trial proceedings.

With 15 voted "yes," four "no," and one abstention,

the House impeached Torres last Jan. 12 for alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty. The House transmitted the articles of impeachment to the Senate last Jan. 14 for consideration.

Senate President Hofsneider, who as then-Senate president in the 18th Senate, created a special committee on impeachment to draft the impeachment rules for the trial of Fitial.

Torres, as then senator, chaired the 18th Senate special committee on impeachment rules. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

scene at around 6:05pm last Saturday. His initial observation was that the structure sustained moderate to severe heat damage.

"After being briefed by Engine-02 Engineer John R. Camacho, I could observe an abandoned structure with moderate to severe heat and smoke damage," he said.

Iginoef learned that the fire began at the northeastern side of the building and spread from there. "Through witness and scene investigation, the fire started at the eastern side and spread outward. Further scene investigation revealed

that the area of origin is located at the northeastern side of the structure," he said.

According to DFEMS spokesperson Robert Mojica, the first units to arrive on scene last Friday were Medic-2, Engine-2, Engine-4, and Rescue-1, who all arrived at around 4:52pm. The responding units confirmed that the building was fully engulfed in flames, and that there could be a possible roof collapsed on the right side of the building.

At around 6:03pm, Lt. John Mettao announced that the fire was under control.

The petition and further details of the cause can be found at <https://chn.org/TrDYryFYtQ>. The petition page also features a "reasons for signing" section, which has garnered many responses from concerned community members.

"[I'm] signing because I care for animals too. And to make sure they also have [a] decent place to call, temporary home and be cared for," wrote one person who signed the petition.

"We definitely need SCA to keep our stray animal population in check and keep our pets healthy," wrote another.

"The only animal shelter on the island [where] there are hundreds of animals that need help. We NEED this shelter," wrote another.

In his statement, Torres

to start their campaign with house-to-house visits, and a lot of education about what they stand for, the platform that they will be rolling out.

She said the Democratic Party does have a platform and that she and Staffler worked very closely with their colleagues to develop it and that it was adopted in 2020.

"We are in the process now of updating and expanding that platform. And we're looking forward to sharing that vision with the community and getting feedback about it as well," she said.

As to what they offer differently from the other candidates, Sablan said she would say that she and Staffler are fresh faces in government and leadership.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is seeking re-election with Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan) as his running mate under the Republican Party. Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and

first explained the situation, saying that SCA recently announced plans to close down its animal shelter "within the next week due to a decision made by the CNMI Zoning Board." Torres made clear, however, that while the Zoning Board informed SCA that it needed to halt current operations by Jan. 31, 2022, Zoning did not mandate SCA to vacate the premises.

Torres lauded SCA and its many volunteers for providing "an essential service to our community." Torres said he has heard many accounts about the many families SCA has helped, and he promised to do his part in helping find "a viable solution for SCA as they are currently the only organization that provides medical care for animals in the CNMI."

Similarly, Torres lauded the Zoning Board for being willing to work with SCA and granting the organization "with several accommodations."

"I have been informed that, after having previously granted two prior extension requests, the Zoning Board has decided to deny a third request due to repeated unresolved issues regarding SCA's current premises. As it stands, under the present Zoning regulations, Saipan Cares for Animals must find a healthier, more sustainable, long-term home to conduct their services," he said.

Torres noted that SCA has secured a new location for

operation, but acknowledged that the property "is currently inoperable at this time."

In the interim, Torres met with the Zoning Board and its administrator yesterday to "assess their underlying concerns and to seek avenues to resolve them while ensuring that all applicable laws and regulations are abided by."

Torres will then be meeting with SCA today to "discuss their plans moving forward and how we can better assist in serving our animal population and providing safer living environments and means of attaining adequate care."

Torres said it is "heartwarming" to see so much community support behind SCA "as a result of all they have done for our community, and I join in support of their cause." Torres assured that he and his office are looking into "a variety of solutions," including fostering collaborations with government agencies to support SCA's relocation efforts.

Torres said his office will ensure that SCA receives its full share of American Rescue Plan Act non-profit organization funding—a \$300,000 amount—plus "any additional support they may need."

"Lastly, I take this opportunity to thank the hardworking individuals who have dedicated their time and services in support of this worthy and much needed cause in our Commonwealth, most especially Beth Pliscou and her hardworking staff," said Torres.

reer pathways that they've explored. "But we've also done a lot of community organizing together," Staffler said.

Sablan said their ticket is historic in many ways, as it's first time in CNMI history that two women are running together for the top leadership positions in office.

"We both bring experience and record of championing good governance in the Commonwealth for the last 15 years together as well as in our separate capacities," Sablan said.

She said she has a planning background, while Staffler has 20 years of experience in public education.

Sablan said their administration will put education, healthcare, and infrastructure development as front and center in their platform and program they will be rolling out once elected.

Staffler said with respect to their backgrounds, they have had a lot of personal and ca-

FIRE

From Page 1

return to the building when the fire started. They only rushed back when they started to see black smoke coming from the area.

According to Francisco O. Iginoef, DFEMS Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation's lead Firefighter, DFEMS has yet to determine what caused the fire in the first place.

"The fire is still under investigation and more information will be given out accordingly," he said.

Iginoef said he arrived on

resenting Precinct 2.

She said she took the lessons that she learned from that election, went on to do other things, then ran again for a House seat.

Sablan was first elected to the House in 2007, making her the youngest member of the 16th Legislature at the time. After her defeat in her Senate bid in 2009, she joined the staff of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), serving as his deputy communications director and outreach coordinator.

In 2018, she returned to the House as a Precinct 2 representative and was re-elected in 2020.

Sablan said she is excited to be running with Staffler, who is representing Precinct 5, for the Democratic Party's ticket for governor and lieutenant governor.

In a playful turn during the press briefing, when asked who would be the CNMI's first gentleman if she were to win and become the first woman gov-

ernor in CNMI history, Sablan laughed and replied that she will put out a request for proposals, where applicants need to submit their qualifications and appear for appointments.

"That's a major announcement I think," said Sablan, laughing.

Staffler, 42, said she does have a husband, Mark Staffler. "And so he will be a second gentleman, I suppose," said the smiling Staffler.

As to their next step after yesterday's press conference, Sablan said the campaign kickoff will be tomorrow, Wednesday, with roadside waving at the Garapan Fishing Base at 4:45pm. and that the public is invited.

After the roadside waving and the kickoff event, the Democratic Party will be convening their committee and electing officers for the Committee to Elect Sablan and Staffler.

Sablan said they expect

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang are running as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, as independents.

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RACE

From Page 1

"We're running to win," said the 40-year-old Sablan during her and Staffler's first conference as a tandem at Island Café & Restaurant in Garapan.

In response to a question, Sablan said she learned a lot from losing during the CNMI Senate election in 2009. "I would say I probably learned more from losing that election [than] from winning other elections after that," she said.

One thing she can say about loss, Sablan said, is that it teaches a person and that she learned so much about things she could have done better.

"When you run for office, you also have to meet people where they are and I just learned so much from that election, from that loss, and it made me stronger," said Sablan, who is a member of the House of Representatives rep-

reer pathways that they've explored. "But we've also done a lot of community organizing together," Staffler said.

She said part of the next steps forward that they want to focus on are making sure that get the input of the community on the priorities because change is a big step.

She said good governance is something that she and Sablan have always championed.

"It's the reason why I have always followed her career. It's the reason why I even decided to take this step toward public service," Staffler said.

The lawmaker said education is a stable place to work, but that she sees that she would like to help the community in other ways and that's part of why she decided to follow Sablan into this area.

"It's really important that we have leaders who are willing to step out and so here we are," Staffler said.

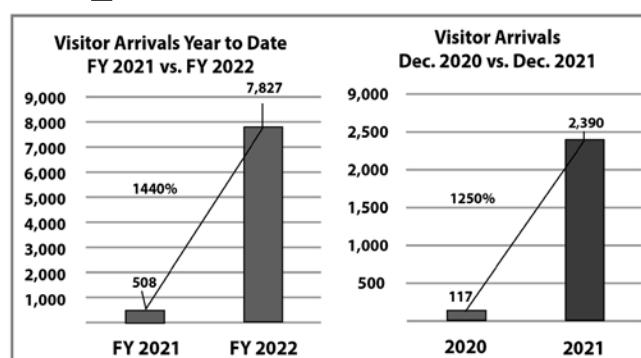
Arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota grew 1,250% to 2,390 visitors in December 2021, compared to 177 visitors received in December 2020, according to the latest numbers from the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Free webinar on gov't subcontracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering a free live webinar on subcontracting this Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. Subcontracting is an important part of most government contracts. Subcontracting plans, limitations, and related FAR clauses will be discussed. This webinar will run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. A link to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar. To register, visit: <https://guamptac.ecenterdirect.com/events/620>. (PR)

While the figure shows a marked recovery in arrivals as a result of the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan implemented by the MVA in July 2021, it is still a significant decrease from 52,297 visitors received December 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic, indicating a continued challenging road ahead for the recovery of the Marianas tourism economy.

Almost all visitors in December arrived under a travel bubble agreement with South Korea, the Marianas' largest source market prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with 1,656 visitors arriving. This compares to December 2020, when the Marianas did not receive any visitors from South



Korea.

Also, the Marianas received 357 visitors from Guam, 318 visitors from the United States, and a combined 59 additional visitors from all other

destinations in December.

While the Marianas saw declining demand from South Korea in December and early January due to the omicron variant and other factors, the

» 95% lower than pre-COVID arrivals

MVA and its tourism partners are optimistic about the rebound of the market in late January during the Lunar New Year holiday period and beyond. The Marianas is expecting approximately 5,000 passengers from Seoul via Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, and T'Way from Jan. 27 to Feb. 28, 2022, as well as approximately 1,000 visitors from Busan through the end of February. (PR)

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-GOV-42200040**

**RENOVATION OF BUILDING 1314
FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY**

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST FEBRUARY 17, 2022

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the *Renovation of Building 1314 for the Criminal Justice Planning Agency* in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **January 18, 2022** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site located in Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST February 2, 2022**. Proposers may request to participate via phone call or virtually five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. All attendees are required to use a face mask and exercise social distancing throughout the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to **Ms. Sunny Aldan** at sunny.aldan@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST February 8, 2022**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, February 17, 2022**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/s/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI** **/s/ Francisco C. Aquon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply**

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNIMPORTS.COM](https://www.cnimports.com)

**Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
"Car Rental Concessions"**
CPA-RFP-008-21
Request for Proposals
for: CPA Concession No. CRR-2021-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of about two years (contract ends on 5/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-008-21 is **January 13, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on February 23, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00 (certified cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNIMPORTS.COM](https://www.cnimports.com)

**Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concession"**
CPA-RFP-007-21
Request for Proposals
for: CPA Concession No. CRS-2021-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of approximately two years (contract to end on 5/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-007-21 is **January 13, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on February 23, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00 (certified cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-GOV-42200018**

SUBMISSION DATE: 9:30 AM February 10, 2022

KALABERA CAVE REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the *Kalabera Cave Repairs & Improvements* in Marpi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **January 13, 2021** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours. **This project will require US Treasury Listed Payment and Performance Bonds.**

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site, Marpi, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST January 26, 2022**. Proposers may request to participate via phone call or virtually five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. All attendees are required to use a face mask and exercise social distancing throughout the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to **Ms. Nerissa Benavente** at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST February 1, 2022**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **9:30 AM February 10, 2022**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/s/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI** **/s/ Francisco C. Aquon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services**

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary**
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 236-9791 | Email: procurement@nmijudiciary.com

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NO. RFP-2022-JUD-1
VSS Bid No. 42200034**

**SUBMISSION DATE: February 25, 2022 (ChST)
SUBMIT VIA: THE CNMI GOVERNMENT'S VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL
TIME: 3:00 P.M.**

"ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION"

The NMI Judicial Branch ("Judiciary") is accepting proposals from qualified individuals/firms to modernize three (3) elevators at the Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice located at Susupe, Saipan.

A copy of the Request for Proposal Package ("Package") is available on the CNMI Government's new Vendor portal, Vendor Self Service ("VSS"), at <https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/default.aspx>. You must register on the VSS to participate in this RFP. For registration instructions, please follow the link: <https://www.finance.gov.mp/division-forms/oit/cnmi-vss-registration-instructions.pdf>.

The Judiciary reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

The provisions of the NMI Judiciary Rules of Procurement Rule 69 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

**/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE** **/s/ FERMIN B. DELA CRUZ
PROCUREMENT OFFICER**

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg. 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnnibpl@cnmibpl.net
Website: cnmibpl.hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (12/22/2021)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
 - A. Announcement of his term expiration
 - B. Retention of Board member Ted Parker until a Successor is Confirm
 - C. Election of Officers for 2022-2024
- VII. Director's Report
 - A. Update on House Bill No. 22-26, HD1 – Removal of Board terms
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - Peter Geissler – Radiology Technology Applicant (Update)
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION (CDBG-MIT)

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, INDIVIDUALS, AGENCIES, AND GROUPS:

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) will receive \$16,225,000 in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds made available by the *Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019* and through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 50% of CDBG-MIT grant funds or \$8,112,500 must be utilized in HUD-identified "Most Impacted and Distressed" areas of Saipan and Tinian.

Notice is hereby given that the Office of the Governor through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation will be conducting a *Pre-Release Virtual Public Meeting* on February 9, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. and is soliciting for citizen input and suggestions on NMHC's proposed approach and project selection for its CDBG-MIT Program. If you wish to participate in the Pre-Release Virtual Public Meeting and share your comments, please join the meeting at Zoom:

Topic: CDBG-MIT Pre-Release Virtual Public Meeting

Time: Feb 9, 2022 09:00 AM Guam, Port Moresby

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84854847055?pwd=ZmMzNXU5QmErcFRNUhkJUUFmSUF5Zz09>

The scheduled Pre-Release Virtual Public Meeting will cover the following topics:

- Overview of the CDBG-MIT Program
- Overview of the CNMI's 2018 Standard State Mitigation Plan (SSMP)
- Update on Hazard Mitigation Actions and Project Selection
- Proposed Approach to Identify CDBG-MIT Programs
- Next Steps: Initial Action Plan and Public Comment Period
- Question and Answer

NMHC will provide language assistance to Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons, especially those who are very low-, low-, and moderate income, free of charge, upon request and other related services are also made available in format that is accessible for persons with disabilities as provided for in the Effective Communication requirements under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Further information on the CDBG-MIT Program may be obtained by contacting Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director or Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, or Mr. Kimo M. Rosario, Program Manager at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by visiting NMHC's CDBG-MIT website at: <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com/CDBG-MIT/>. Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9021, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

/s/ Ralph DLG Torres, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Tels: (670) 233-9447
233-9448
233-9449
233-9450
Fax: (670) 234-9451

Nishida graduates with cum laude honors

Saipan-born Yuuki Nishida graduated last month from the Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts with a bachelor's degree in Journalism, with cum laude honors.

While studying at NEU, Nishida actively participated, joined, and volunteered in different activities and societies. He was the chairman and co-president of Hawaii Ohana at Northeastern University Aloha, Asian American Students in Action mentor, and NU Barkada internal public relations officer. He was also a Pan Asian American Council representative, Huntington News writer, and Generate Content supervisor.

Nishida served as the podcast associate at the Michael J. and Ann Sherman Center for En-

gineering Entrepreneurship Education and editorial assistant at TechTarget. He is currently working as digital/customer marketing specialist at Threat Stack, Inc.

As for exciting new things to look forward to this year, Nishida is back to NEU as a full-time graduate student with concentration on Master of Science in Media Advocacy. He will be doing an independent study with Equally American, a nonprofit organization that advocates for equal rights and representation for citizens living in the U.S. territories. He will also be working on media communications and strategy. Nishida is hoping



Nishida

to be able to start a new conversation that will elevate the issues the territories face to the national level and open the door to new possibilities. Nishida is especially excited to be working with the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research and the Boston Globe on their revival of *The Emancipator*, the first abolitionist newspaper in the U.S. which he will be helping with the launch this year.

Nishida graduated from Marianas High School in 2017. He is a former intern at *Saipan Tribune*. His mother is a teacher at Hopwood Middle School and his father is a manager at Tasi Tours and Transportation. (PR)

tive hardware and to replace a rotted power pole along Chaim Matus in As Matusi.

■ Circuit: Feeder 7

■ Water Well(s) Affected: 10 water wells and 1 Booster Station

• Areas Affected: As Matusi, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag.

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: SR-2 Lift Station

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

Power service interruptions on Jan. 25, 26

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on Jan. 25 and 26.

Tuesday, January 25

■ Outage Time: 8:30 am. to 12:30pm

• Areas Affected: Beach Road (Sasha Building and Thrift Store). S

■ Momentary Outage: 8:30am to 9:00am and 12:00pm to 12:30pm

• Areas Affected: Beach Road (Sasha Building, Thrift Store, Fitaw Ct., Pumpkin St., Alalak Dr., Lasaga Ln., Chaiot Pl. and Dotse Pl.).

■ Purpose: To relocate an existing concrete power pole for the purpose of the traffic light installation.

■ Circuit: Feeder 2

■ Water Well(s) Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: SI 1 and S12

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

■ Outage Time: 9am to 1pm

■ Momentary Outage Time: 9am to 9:30am and 12:30pm to 1pm

■ Areas Affected: Achugao, San Roque and As Matusi.

■ Purpose: To replace defec-



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION (CDBG-MIT)

NGÁLIR ALONGER IKKA REMWESCHEL YÁAMI KKELA CITIZENS, INDIVIDUALS, AGENCIES BWAL GROUP:

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) ebwe receive-li \$16,225,000 mellò Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds reel ebwe ayoora mille *Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019* bwal mereel U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Essòbw sôssôletiw faal \$8,112,500 efil ebwe yàayàalong lòl mille HUD-identified "Most Impacted and Distressed" bwuley kkeey mewòòl Seipèl bwal Tchileyòl.

Iyeey arong bwe Bwulasiyol Sòulemelem bwe Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) ebwe ayoora mille *Pre-Release Virtual Public Meeting* wòòl February 9, 2022 ôtol 9:00 a.m. me eghal *soliciting* ngalir *citizen* rebwe bwal isisilong yaar màngemàng reel yaal NMHC's proposed approach bwal *project selection* reel mille CDBG-MIT Program. Ngare iyo emweschel toolong lòl mille Pre-Release Virtual Meeting me isisilong yòòmw màngemàng, ghilisow tabweey meeting yeel reel Zoom :

Topic: CDBG-MIT Pre-Release Virtual Public Meeting

Time: Feb 9, 2022 09:00 AM Guam, Port Moresby

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84854847055?pwd=ZmMzNXU5QmErcFRNUhkJUUFmSUF5Zz09>

Reel yaal scheduled Pre-Release Virtual Public Meeting nge ebwe *cover*-li ikkaal topics:

- Overview of the CDBG-MIT Program
- Overview of the CNMI's 2018 Standard State Mitigation Plan (SSMP)
- Update on Hazard Mitigation Actions and Project Selection
- Proposed Approach to Identify CDBG-MIT Programs
- Next Steps: Initial Action Plan and Public Comment Period
- Question and Answer

NMHC ebwe ayoora alillis reel sassalil kkapas ngalir aramas kka rese kkol metaf llòl kkapasal *English*. Esoòr abwòs / free of charge, ngalir ikka re tingòr akkàaw alillis reel igha ebwe yoor llòl *format* ye ebwe accessible ngalir aramas kka re *disability* me a lo mille Effective Communication requirements faal Section 504 mellof Rehabilitation Act of 1973 bwal reel *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*.

Reel maas information reel mille CDBG-MIT Program reel ubwe maas metaf faal nge ubwe ffaingi, Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director me ngare Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, me ngare Mr. Kimo M. Rosario, Program Manager reel Northern Marianas Housing Corporation at (670) 234-6866/9447 me ngare toolong llòl NMHC's CDBG-MIT website at: <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com/CDBG-MIT/>. Reel ubwe ischiitiw yòòmw màngemàng nge ubwe faxed ngali Fax No.: (670) 234-9021, ngare eew *mail*-li ngali P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, ngare eew email-li, cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

/s/ Ralph DLG Torres, Sòulemelem
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION (CDBG-MIT)

Para todú ni man interasao na taotao, indibiyuat, ahensa, yan gurupu siha:

I Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), inkuenta ginin i Commonwealth gi San Kattan na Islas Mariáñas (i CNMI), para hu risibi \$16,225,000 ni Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) na fundu ginin i Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019, yan i U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Lamitâhà pat \$8,112,500 nu esti na CDBG-MIT na fundu debi na hu ma usa gi HUD-identified "Most Impacted and Distressed" na lugât siha giya Saipan yan Tinian.

I ofisinan i maga'lâhi as Ralph DLG. Torres yan i Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, para u manafanungu' i henerât pupbliku put esti i *Pre-Release Virtual Public Hearing* yan para u manâ'i i pupbliku tiempu para u fampattisipâo yan i uputunidat para u famanoppo' gi esti na Pre-Release Virtual Public Meeting gi Febrero dia nuebi gi alas nuebi gi oga'an. Kumu intiresao hao mu patisapao gi esti na Pre-Release Virtual Public Meeting, halom gi Zoom gi:

Topic: CDBG-MIT Pre-Release Virtual Public Meeting

Time: Feb 9, 2022 09:00 AM Guam, Port Moresby

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84854847055?pwd=ZmMzNXU5QmErcFRNUhkJUUFmSUF5Zz09>

Gi esti na Pre-Release Virtual Public Meeting, siempre ma diskuti i mantinatti:

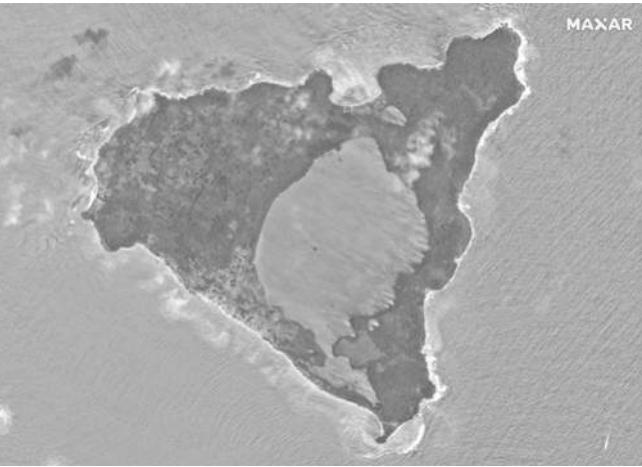
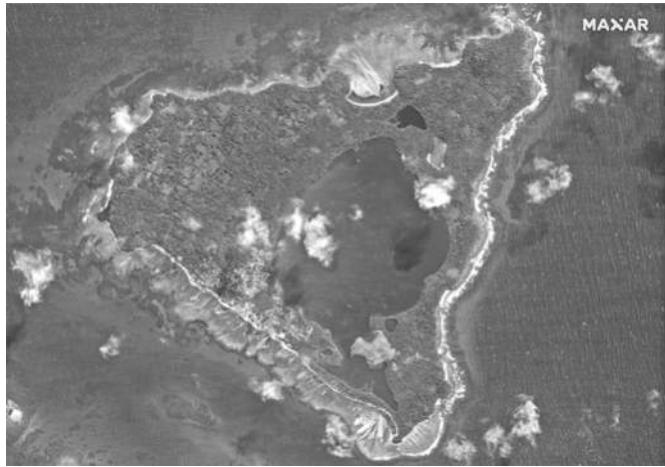
- Overview of the CDBG-MIT Program
- Overview of the CNMI's 2018 Standard State Mitigation Plan (SSMP)
- Update on Hazard Mitigation Actions and Project Selection
- Proposed Approach to Identify CDBG-MIT Programs
- Next Steps: Initial Action Plan and Public Comment Period
- Question and Answer

I NMHC siempri ha chuli' rasonâpbl na manera para u na'siguru na i espisiat "very low-, low-", yan "moderate income" na petsona siha, kundodu i tâotâo ni gai disisiblât yan i tâotâo ni man "Limited English Proficiency (LEP)" para hu conformat gi Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 yan i Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 na managuaha dibâtde na akses para u mâs makumprendi i prugrâma yan parehu na uputunidat para u fampattisipâo gi halum esti impottâni na aktibidat.

Yanggin malagu' hâo mâs infotmasion put i mamensiona na prugrâma CDBG-MIT, put fabot âgang si Señot Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, pat si Señorita Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, pat si Señor Kimo M. Rosario, Program Manager, gi ufisinan NMHC gi numeru (670) 234-6866/9447 pat bisita i NMHC CDBG-MIT website gi <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com/CDBG-MIT/>. Hafa na timig' siha ma fax guatu gi (670) 234-9021, ma mail gi P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, pat email gi cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

/s/ Ralph DLG Torres, Maga'lâhi
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

International aid reaches Tonga with clean water, supplies



This combination of this satellite images provided by Maxar Technologies shows an overview of Nomuka in the Tonga island group on Aug. 17, 2020, left, and Jan. 20, 2022, right, showing the damage after the Jan. 15 eruption. AP

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Aid flights from Australia, Japan and New Zealand carrying food, water, medical supplies and telecommunications equipment landed in Tonga over the weekend, as the Pacific nation grapples with the aftermath of an underwater volcanic eruption and tsunami.

The main airport runway has been cleared of ash spewed when the nearby Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano erupted a week ago. The explosion also set off a Pacific-wide tsunami that smashed boats in New Zealand and caused an oil spill as far as Peru.

"Obviously it's a very, very

difficult time for the people of Tonga. The feedback on the ground again I got today is many people displaced," Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific Zed Seselja told reporters in Canberra.

Cleanup efforts were going smoothly, with the Tongan government and military officials working together, he said.

Ships from the U.S. and Britain were on their way, he said. Also deployed was the HMAS Adelaide, an Australian navy ship, with helicopters on board as well as engineers and a 40-bed hospital. The ship can generate electricity and purify water.

A lack of clean water was a priority because supplies have been disrupted by layers of volcanic ash and salt water. Red Cross teams on the ground reported widespread stagnant pools of salt water that were dumped by the tsunami, polluting the clean drinking water sources of tens of thousands of people, said Katie Greenwood, the Pacific head for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

On Saturday, the Japanese government said a Self-Defense Forces C-130 aircraft arrived in Tonga with three tons of drinking water. That followed a Japanese military flight on Friday. Another

plane is scheduled to depart Sunday, carrying equipment for the ash cleanup, the Defense Ministry said.

Seselja said one bit of good news was that casualties have been relatively limited, with three deaths confirmed so far.

Three of Tonga's smaller islands suffered serious damage from tsunami waves. The majority of Tongans live on the main island of Tongatapu, where about 50 homes were destroyed and coastlines strewn with debris.

U.N. humanitarian officials reported that about 84,000 people—80% of Tonga's population—have been impacted by the eruption.

The tsunami severed the single fiber-optic cable that connects Tonga to the rest of the world, leaving many unable to connect with loved ones abroad. Since then, sat-

elite communication have improved and Tonga's telecoms operator, Digicel, said it had been able to restore international call services to some areas.

CHARLENE M. LIZAWA, JAMES M. MENDOLA, ANTONIO S.N. BOUA, DONALD M. HOFSCHEIDER
Chairman Vice Chairman Member Acting Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguijan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will be hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes

1. November 9, 2021—Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS

- a. Chair's Report
- b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Casino Service Industry
 - 1) United States Playing Cards
 - 2) Matsui Asia, Limited

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

Upon receipt of 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Rosa Mercedes) | Rickrik Taman) |
| (Name of Mother) | K.H.R.T) |
| P.E.J.R.T) | F.C.D.PA) |
| (Name of Children) | CIVIL ACTION) |
| Minor Children) | NO. 21-0474) |
| Plaintiffs, -vs-) | SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION) |
| Peter Atalig Castro) | Name of Alleged Father) |
| | Defendant,) |

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
Peter Atalig Castro

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501634 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-22-002

A&E SURVEY SERVICES FOR THE DAN DAN HOMESTEAD WATERLINE AND SERVICE LATERAL REPLACEMENT (W20-074)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Survey Services of the DanDan Homestead Waterline and Service Lateral Replacement in DanDan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this contract is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this RAESP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government-observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RAESP package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-22-002, A&E Survey Services for DanDan Homestead Waterline and Service Lateral Replacement", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 8, 2022**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 24, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Mr. Kennet Jann R. Bernardo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician Senior – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-043

Opening Date: January 21, 2022

Closing Date: February 3, 2022

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

Trades Assistant
Power Generation
Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$16,742.00 - \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
Not contracted
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Rota Resident Manager or his/her designee. The Trades Assistant assists with the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, incinerators, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.

Duties:

- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities;
- Monitoring Plant systems as assigned;
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection;
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used;
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete;
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports;
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily work activities;
- Assisting with equipment inspections, cleaning, corrosion control, and painting;
- Operating incinerators; oil and water separator pump, servicing and preparing oil filters;
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing debris and housekeeping;
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma/GED or ABE Program AS. Training and knowledge in operations repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities desired but not required.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over; climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work. Work in environments exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities. Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends and holidays, may be on call for emergency response.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Kremlin's menace grows. How will the West respond?

It's been six weeks since President Joe Biden's video-conference with Russian leader Vladimir Putin over the crisis in Ukraine. Since then, Putin's saber-rattling has only gotten louder.

The Kremlin has been moving troops and military equipment into Belarus, a faithful Moscow ally that borders Ukraine on the north. Moscow also has been reportedly emptying out its embassy in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv—a move perhaps meant to intimidate, perhaps meant to ready for a full-scale invasion. Ukrainian authorities fear Russian hackers have planted destructive malware in the country's computer networks, and are waiting for the go-ahead to activate. And ominously, Russian officials have hinted about shifting nuclear weapons to locations not far from the U.S. coastline.

NATO has come full circle. It came into existence after World War II as a firewall against Soviet aggression. The threat from America's Cold War superpower rival was real. It's real again, though if Putin is looking for reasons why Russians should view NATO as their principal enemy, he should look in the mirror.

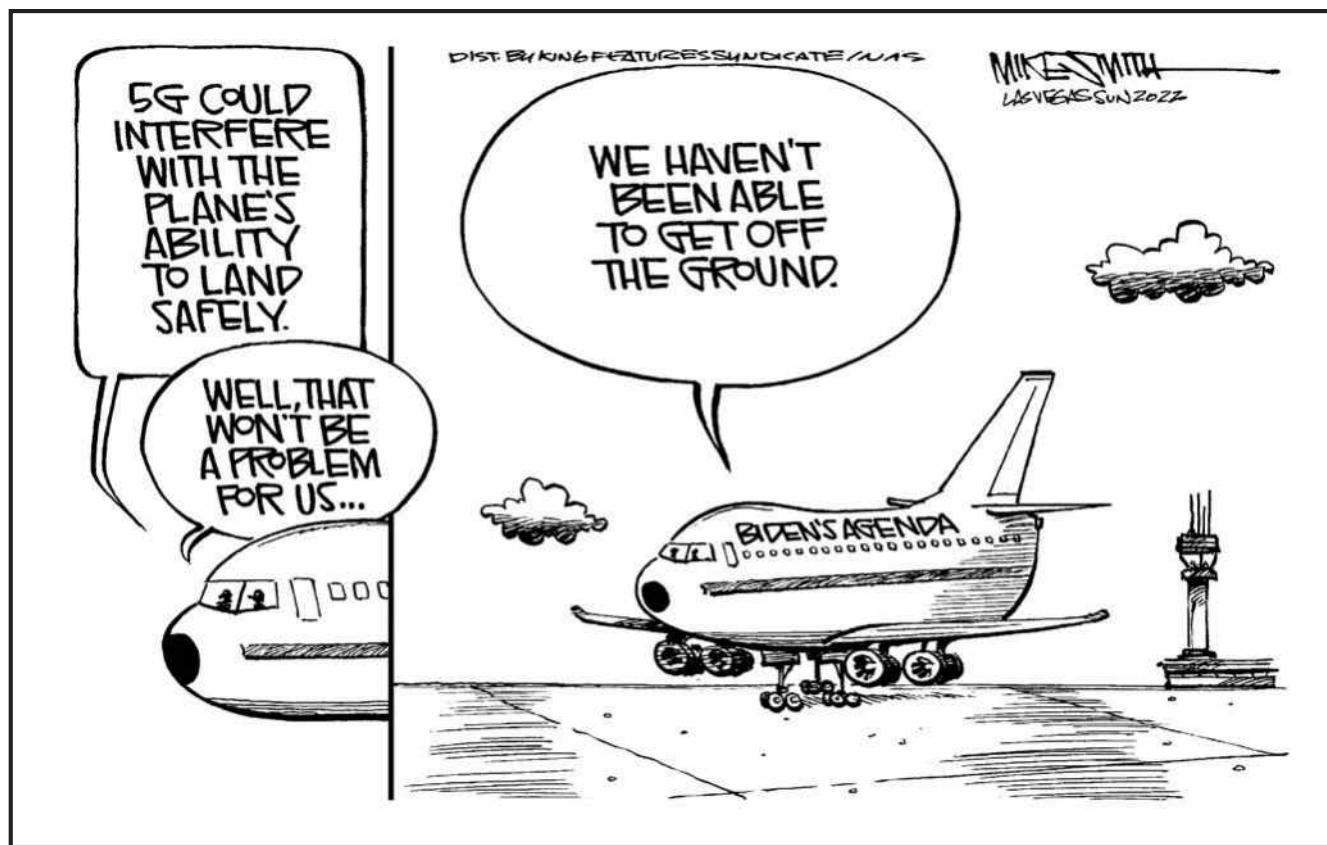
In 2008 he sent Russian troops into West-allied Georgia, effectively commandeering two Georgian provinces that, to this day, are Russian satellite regions. During the civil war in Syria, Putin took advantage of President Barack Obama's waffling over how to deal with Bashar al-Assad and injected Russia into the campaign as the primary enabler of the barbaric Syrian dictator. Then in 2014, Russian troops forcibly annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula and engineered a separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine that has led to more than 13,000 deaths and a war that endures to this day. In 2016 he took direct aim at America with a meticulously crafted campaign to interfere in the presidential election.

Putin's actions over the years have forced NATO to once again regard Russia as an existential threat. It's why the U.S. and its Western allies must show far more resolve against Putin than they did when he stole Crimea from Ukraine. What form that resolve takes remains to be seen, though harsh sanctions such as cutting off Russia from the global financial system, along with fully arming the Ukrainian insurgency that would follow any invasion, should be part of the arsenal. Biden should also reconsider his reluctance to impose sanctions on Russia's coveted Nord Stream 2 pipeline to bring natural gas to Germany.

Anything less than a U.S.-European united front against Putin gives the former KGB agent exactly what he got in 2014 when he invaded Crimea—confidence that the West would huff about his audacious behavior, but ultimately acquiesce. Too much is at stake now, however, for that to happen again. The Soviet Union is long gone, but the rivalry between the West and the Kremlin is alive and more virulent than ever.

Biden, NATO and the rest of the West cannot afford to give Putin any quarter.

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Anti-vaccine patients vent anger on health care workers like me. It takes a toll on care

As a pulmonary and critical care physician in Southern California treating hospitalized patients with COVID-19, I am noticing a rising tension. Beyond just being overwhelmed, we are now part of the collateral damage.

I recently asked a security guard to accompany me and an ICU nurse to meet the family of an unvaccinated 42-year-old firefighter who refused to accept that COVID-19 caused his respiratory failure. Adamantly refusing intubation despite worsening over weeks, it was only when his oxygen levels precipitously dropped and he complained of excruciating breathlessness that he accepted a breathing tube.

A dozen irate family members and friends now demanded answers. Because of visitation restrictions to limit contagion, they awaited me in lawn chairs outside the hospital. Through my N95 mask, I tried to explain in simple terms what was happening to their loved one. They hectored with incessant questions about test results, accusations of mistreatment and demands for therapies like vitamins, ivermectin and sedatives.

Warning repeatedly "not to lie," they recorded me with their camera phones. I tiptoed through a minefield of distrust. My careful medical explanations and efforts to connect empathically never landed. After 45 minutes, the three of us walked back into the hospital. The nurse, an ICU veteran of 20 years, sighed and said: "I can't believe they attacked you like that."

Once it would have been unbelievable, but it's becoming all too common. Endless months of rancor from COVID-skeptical patients and their families takes a psychological toll on front-line health care professionals. I'm seeing a new casualty: Worn down, many practitioners are compromising long-standing practice norms.

Among patients who disbelieve the experts about COVID-19, there is a familiar pattern. They get sick. They end up in the hospital with severe COVID-19 illness. They initially demonstrate a nonplussed defiance, which morphs into utter helplessness when they progressively worsen.

A 43-year-old woman insisted "it's just the flu" right up until she was begging to be intubated when oxygen masks failed to alleviate the panic caused by low oxygen levels. I pleaded with a 40-year-old man to accept my recommendations for care, only to have him grip my hand, look squarely in my eyes and say: "Feel my grip? I am strong. I am a man. Let me push through this." (He went on to accept intubation but died several weeks later.)

Navigating the Kubler-Ross stages of traumatic grief—denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance—has always been part of providing critical care. But it's a different challenge when patients are being wheeled into the hospital because of their deep denial of what we do know about the pandemic. It's a different challenge when their family and friends conflate their misgiv-

By VENKTESH RAMNATH
Los Angeles Times



Venktesh Ramnath is medical director of critical care and telemedicine outreach at UC San Diego Health.

ings about the science with our sincere efforts to help.

Incredulous families summarily deny that COVID-19 (and absence of vaccination) could be responsible for the critical illnesses I see every day. Patients and their relatives vehemently claim that health care workers and hospitals are "poisoning" and "punishing," as if part of an Orwellian plot, leading to belligerent, abusive behaviors against staff.

Many providers have become inured to uninformed rebuffs of medical recommendations, including vaccination. Educational efforts have devolved into counterproductive debates.

Far from "heroes" or even compassionate advocates for health, providers are viewed as biased technicians with dubious motives locking loved ones behind hospital doors.

One response to this emotional onslaught is, understandably, attrition. Most veteran ICU nursing staff where I work have left, replaced by temporary assignment nurses from across the country. Some physicians who have become ostracized by the very communities they serve now contemplate nonclinical work or early retirement.

Among those of us still in the trenches, some medical professionals are now breaking traditional practice norms. Providers are resorting to less evidence-based practices, desperate to help and also to avoid another conflict. By opening the door to "try everything," they have become unwitting supporters of anti-science movements, placing additional stress on others who promote well-established, proven practices.

Another understandable but disappointing strategy is to avoid tough prognostic conversations. Providers may avoid a confrontation with someone by not relaying the bad news about where a patient's deteriorating condition is headed. This perpetuates false hopes of recovery and can leave patients clamoring for more and more treatment—which the provider knows would only amplify and prolong suffering, and which would detract attention from patients with higher probabilities of improvement.

There are no simple solutions, but there are many pieces to the puzzle: We health care providers must set realistic expectations early and throughout hospitalization. Hospitals must

See ANTI-VACCINE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Moral standards and good character

Leila Staffler and Tina Sablan, together—what a team to lead the Marianas!

Mrs. Staffler's leadership skills were developed in her years as a school principal in Kagman. She was known for her ability to build consensus and for the many successes of the Ayuyu community that resulted.

Seeing how well she worked with students and parents, I encouraged Leila to run for public office and represent her entire Kagman community. Now, she has developed the same reputation for teamwork with her colleagues in the Legislature, a style of leadership she will surely bring to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Besides the competence and incorruptibility that is the basis for their candidacy, of course, Leila Staffler and Tina Sablan are also making history.

Leila is the first person from—a daughter of—Tinian ever to join any party's ticket for governor and lieutenant governor.

Don't panic, Joe Biden. Be like Reagan

The New York Times reports that President Joe Biden: "Will retreat from the tangle of day-to-day negotiations with members of his own party that have made him seem powerless to advance key priorities, according to senior White House advisers. The change is part of an intentional reset in how he spends his time, aimed at emphasizing his power to govern as president, rather than getting trapped in a series of congressional battles."

With any luck, it's just harmless spin. Presidency scholar Matthew Dickinson reacted to the Times report by saying that Biden "is likely to do better by continuing to try to engage with Congress." Political scientist Matt Grossmann elaborated on Twitter: "With months to go with a trifecta, Biden's plan is to disengage from Congress? I don't think the problem was high levels of engagement. He is probably still needed to make whatever reconciliation deal is possible & sell it to his party."

The truth is that the Democrats' legislative record one year into Biden's presidency isn't bad given the context of strong partisan polarization and extremely narrow majorities in both chambers of Congress. That's pending whatever happens to the sprawling reconciliation bill stuffed with programs addressing climate

The miracle of bugs

"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise."
Proverbs 6:6

Edward O. Wilson, the Harvard biologist who has died at age 92, is most famous for his contributions to evolutionary biology, but he built his career on ants.

He wrote multiple books on the insects, including a 700-page encyclopedic work in 1990 that has to count as one of the least likely winners of the Pulitzer Prize ever.

Despite his agnosticism and the reductive materialism of his Darwinism, Wilson wrote with a real warmth and soulfulness. Amidst his storied academic career and the controversies kicked up by his theories, it's worth considering all he did to highlight the miraculous complexity and wonders of life via a lowly bug that is considered a pest when it isn't ignored altogether.

There are more than 15,000 discovered species of ant, and perhaps another 10,000 yet to be found. Wilson exulted in the dizzying variety—ants that can walk under water to find dead insects, or glide from one branch of a tree to another, or create super-colonies that extend for miles.

If ants are extraordinarily diverse, their social organization makes East Berlin look fun and free by comparison. As Wilson wrote, "Karl Marx was right, socialism works, it is just that he had the wrong species." Ants have all the regard for individual dignity of a Mongol chieftain and a power structure out of the Ottoman court.

Pretty much every ant you see doing something is a female. The males are pitiable creatures, good for nothing except their one-time task of trying to inseminate a female.

Among fire ants, would-be queens work together to try to establish a new nest. As soon as they've given birth to worker ants, though, the game of thrones begins. The workers seek out and kill all the queens, leaving only the one that is most fecund.

Ant colonies take slaves and fight wars of extinction. Henry David Thoreau wrote of an ant battle he observed at Walden Pond: "They fought with more pertinacity than bulldogs. Neither manifested the least disposition to retreat. It was evident that

And for Tina and Leila—two women—to seek the highest offices in our Commonwealth is also history in the making.

But elect them for what they can do. Tina Sablan and Leila Staffler are smart and hardworking. Their high moral standards and good character will always guide them as they guide our Commonwealth through the difficult days ahead.

I support them both with all my heart. I will be campaigning alongside them from now to Election Day, and I look forward to working closely with them as your representative in Congress.

Today, I ask all my friends, supporters, and family to join me in supporting and voting for Tina Sablan and Leila Staffler for governor and lieutenant governor.

The community is invited to attend the NMI Democratic Party's gubernatorial campaign kickoff for Christina Sablan and Leila Staffler on Jan. 26, 2022, at the Garapan Fishing Base, starting at 4:45pm, with the roadside waving at 4pm. The event will be out-

By GREGORIO KILILI

C. SABLAM

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the 117th U.S. Congress.

doors to permit physical distancing, seats will be limited so bring a beach chair, and all attendees are asked to wear masks. The event will also be streamed online at the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Island's Facebook page.

For more information, contact 484-3367(DEMS) or email nmidems.sm@gmail.com.

change, medical and child care, education, taxation, family leave and a whole lot more. It's passed the House of Representatives but has, so far, fallen one vote short in the Senate.

We don't know how much of the progress to date should be attributed to Biden as opposed to, say, the extremely effective speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. But I don't see any indication that the White House's strategy has been wrong. Critics have taken aim at the aggressive scope of the Biden agenda, but ambitious policy goals are not necessarily a problem. Had Biden jettisoned everything that was going to be difficult to pass, he might have had a better legislative batting average, but he would have wound up feuding with his party in Congress and beyond.

Biden's major problems so far appear to be outcomes, not processes. That should push the White House to think hard about whether the policies it's implemented make sense, and whether the president and his aides are listening to enough voices to pick up on problems quickly enough.

But unlike the first year of Bill Clinton's or Jimmy Carter's presidencies, there do not appear to be significant problems that have clear process or personnel fixes. (Clinton acted to solve his

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN

Bloomberg Opinion



Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote A Plain Blog About Politics.

internal problems and wound up with a much more successful presidency; Carter didn't and wound up with a mess).

There have been no significant scandals and few stories of administration infighting or obvious dysfunction. If there's been any scapegoating, it seems to be directed toward the staff of Vice President Kamala Harris, which, well, if there are significant process problems, I'm pretty sure that they are not to be found in the vice president's communications team.

The model Biden should probably be thinking about is Ronald Reagan. At this point in his presidency, two of Reagan's major legislative initiatives had passed, and he had some other accomplishments, but things were turning sour. What turned out to be a deep recession began in the summer of 1981, his first year in office, and continued through the 1982 midterm elections.

Reagan, however, had a very good team in place in the White House, and his theme became asking people to "stay the course." That was useless for the midterms, where Republicans did poorly. But the point isn't about messaging and spin. It's that along with some smart corrections—accepting a tax increase to put fiscal policy back on course, upgrading the secretary of state position—Reagan was well served by showing patience and avoiding panic.

This is not to say everything is perfect in the Oval Office. The coronavirus variants, a messy withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, balky global supply chains and inflation appear to have taken the White House by surprise. That's a serious problem that needs addressing, whether by personnel changes or policy adaptations or both.

Emulating Reagan shouldn't lead to complacency. But the Reagan example is a good reminder that when things are going badly in the nation, the president will get the blame whether it's deserved or not, and once approval ratings sag then everyone in Washington starts to see everything the president does in a bad light. Even an administration's strengths.

ANTI-VACCINE

From Page 8

provide more palliative care, social work and other supportive services for patients and families. More and better public health messaging must combat medical misinformation. Medical systems and health care workers need more resources, more security, more public belief that we are all on the same side against a common viral enemy.

And to my colleagues who have been on the front lines: I am with you. If you need to step away, we understand and we thank you for everything you've done to carry us through this pandemic. Those of you who can come to work again tomorrow, please do, because we need you—not only to fight the virus, but also to uphold the principle that we share to do no harm.

their battle cry was 'Conquer or die.'"

The massive and intricate level of cooperation of an ant colony is something to behold. Mark Twain spoofed an ant's crazy struggles upon discovering a grasshopper leg, lugging it the opposite way from home before she "gets madder and madder, then presently hoists it into the air and goes tearing away in an entirely new direction."

In reality, it's the exact opposite. After finding food, a scout tends to return to her nest in a straight line and then summon reinforcements that follow her path exactly. A species found in North Africa travels some 100 yards from its nest and then invariably finds its way back using cues from the sunlight. A species in the Kenyan rainforest uses the forest's canopy as a map.

Can ants create their own ark? Check. When water invades a nest of fire ants, the insects unite to create a living raft. They float along, carrying the queen and eggs, larvae, and pupae until they find dry land again.

Can they launch irresistible ground offensives? Yes, of course. One species sends as many as 700,000 ants out in a fan that moves as fast as 20-yards-an-hour. It can be heard approaching and destroys and consumes all in its path on the rainforest floor, from other insects to scorpions and tarantulas, to lizards and birds.

The effect of Wilson's work on these lowly, yet fascinating, bugs is to create the same sense of marvel that he must have felt when he was an awkward boy first engaged in his amateur naturalism—a feeling that should rightly never be exhausted.

"Our sense of wonder," Wilson wrote, "grows exponentially: The greater the knowledge, the deeper the mystery and the more we seek knowledge to create new mystery."



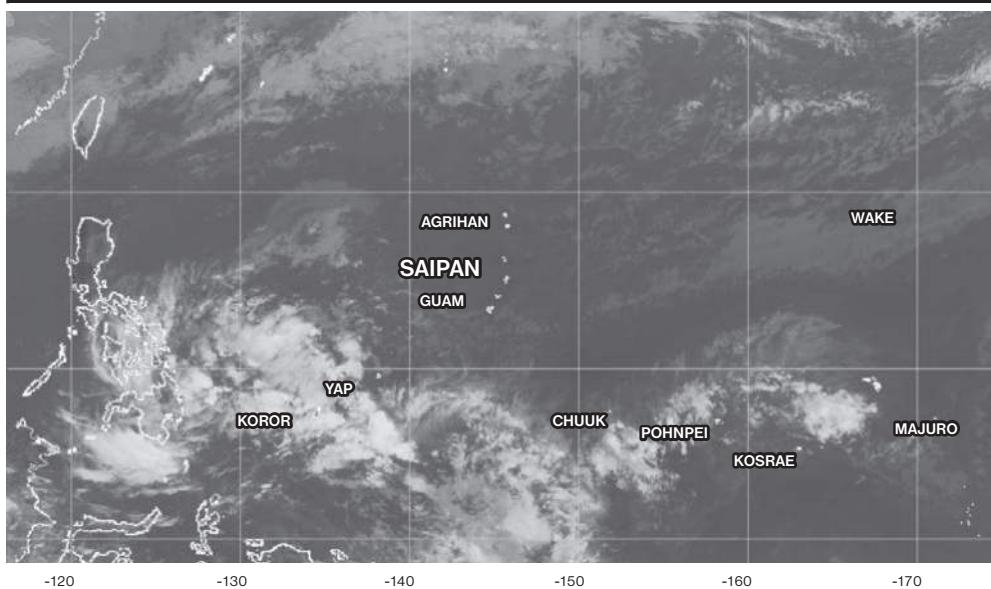
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph. | Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Lows in the mid 70s. | Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers | Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers |
| 75° | 86° | 85° | 76 | 85° |
| 75° | 78° | 85° | 78° | 85° |

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:34 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

This morning's radar imagery is much less impressive than the past few days, with showers already becoming more isolated in coverage than earlier this morning. The first few visible satellite images also suggest cloud cover is on the decrease as well. The latest altimetry passes show seas continue to be in the 10 to 11 foot range.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

Ons. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>

Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 sec-

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 InfoLine at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

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| MICRONESIA | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | 29 / 24 °F |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 29 / 26 °F |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | 29 / 26 °F |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 29 / 26 °F |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 28 / 26 °F |
| Kosrae | Partly Cloudy | 30 / 27 °F |
| Majuro | Partly Cloudy | 29 / 27 °F |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| Today | 06:46 AM | 18:11 PM |
| Wednesday | 06:46 AM | 18:12 PM |
| Thursday | 06:46 AM | 18:12 PM |
| Friday | 06:46 AM | 18:13 PM |
| Saturday | 06:46 AM | 18:13 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 11:01 PM | - |
| Wednesday | 00:06 | 11:51 PM | - |
| Thursday | 00:46 | 12:39 PM | - |
| Friday | 01:25 | 13:26 AM | - |
| Friday | 02:02 | 14:14 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------|
| Auckland | Rain/Thunder | 23 / 19 °F |
| Beijing | Sunny | 7 / -6 °F |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Cloudy | 20 / 17°F |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 27 / 21 °F |
| London | Cloudy | 4 / 1 °F |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 21 / 8 °F |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | 32 / 25 °F |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 32 / 21 °F |
| Miami | Mostly Cloudy | 23 / 30 °F |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 6 / -7 °F |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 10 / 2 °F |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 4 / 0 °F |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 11 / 2 °F |
| Rome | Sunny | 13 / -1 °F |
| Salem | AM Clouds/PM Sun | 13 / -1 °F |
| San Francisco | Mostly Sunny | 14 / 7 °F |
| Seoul | AM Rain/Snow | 6 / -04 °F |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 8 / 4 °F |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 6 / -6 °F |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|
| 12:10 AM | High Tide | 1.29 |
| 06:18 AM | Low Tide | 0.42 |
| 12:49 PM | High Tide | 1.72 |
| 7:53 PM | Low Tide | 0.32 |

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2022

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117 7:20am 8:05am 2, 4, 6 | | | | UA116 5:30am 6:16am 2, 4, 6 | | | |
| UA117 9:50am 10:35am 1, 3, 5, 7 | | | | UA174 8:00am 8:46am 1, 3, 5, 7 | | | |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM | | | |
| PR 111 6:30am 8:20am 1, 3, 5, 7 | | | | PR110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 2, 4, 6, 7 | | | |
| UA183 8:00pm 9:50pm Daily | | | | UA184 10:40pm 4:30am+1 2, 5 | | | |
| UA183 10:55pm 4:45am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 | | | | UA184 10:55pm 4:45am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 | | | |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Business

Taxpayers face overloaded IRS as filing season opens Monday

WASHINGTON (AP)—Count 30-year-old Ethan Miller among that subset of Americans who are actually eager to file their taxes once income tax filing season opens on Monday.

The financial planner who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, is looking forward to

claiming the new deductions that will come from buying a home. He also wants to get a jump on a tax season that promises to bring lots of extra headaches and delays for filers this year.

"I'm trying to get a head start on my taxes as much as possi-

ble," Miller said, adding that he is not too nervous about forecasts of extra delays because he will file online and will not be waiting for too big a refund.

Plenty of other filers, though, may be in for more heartburn.

An IRS worker shortage, an enormous workload from ad-

ministering pandemic-related programs and stalled legislation that would have given the agency billions of dollars for more expeditiously processing returns will combine to cause taxpayers pain this filing season.

"The IRS right now has unacceptable backlogs and the customer service that people are receiving is not what the American public deserves," White House press secretary Jen Psaki acknowledged Friday. "The agency has not been equipped with the resources to adequately serve taxpayers in normal times, let alone during a pandemic."

Delays in processing are

She stressed that the problems predate the Biden administration and she urged understanding for beleaguered workers already saddled with huge backlogs. "It's going to take some work, it's going to take some time and I think people need to understand that they need funding," Psaki said.

Agency officials are already warning filers that "in many areas, we are unable to deliver the amount of service and enforcement that our taxpayers and tax system deserves and needs," as IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig put it earlier in the month.

Delays in processing are

to be expected -- especially because the IRS says it still is working through 2020 tax returns.

During the 2020 budget year, the IRS processed more than 240 million tax returns and issued roughly \$736 billion in refunds, including \$268 billion in stimulus payments, according to the latest IRS data. In that same time frame, 59.5 million people called or visited an IRS office.

Donald Williamson, an accounting and taxation professor at American University in Washington, said he expects "weeks and weeks" of IRS delays in 2022.

United achieves Q4 financial targets, reiterates long-term commitments

CHICAGO—United Airlines announced Friday its fourth quarter and full year 2021 financial results and reiterated confidence in its longer term United Next financial targets. The company achieved every major financial guidance target for the fourth quarter—and set a new Net Promoter Score record in 2021—despite the sharp spike in COVID-19 cases caused by the omicron variant.

Despite near term volatility, bookings for spring travel and beyond remain strong, which is why the omicron spike has not altered the airline's confidence in the 2023 and 2026 CASM-ex1 United Next targets announced last year.

The airline starts 2022 with a scaled-back schedule, reflect-

ing the impact of the omicron spike on demand. However, as the year progresses, United expects to nimbly ramp up capacity by ungrounding 52 Pratt & Whitney-powered Boeing 777s, as demand returns, which will yield improvements in the airline's gauge and aircraft utilization. The airline expects this approach, which continues to prioritize matching capacity to demand, means: 1) the airline will fly fewer available seat miles in 2022 than 2019 and 2) CASM-ex1 will decline significantly over the course of 2022. Most importantly, these 2022 trends will lay the groundwork for successful execution of the multi-year United Next strategy and achievement of the financial targets set for 2023 and beyond.

"The United team has been

fighting through unprecedented obstacles to, once again, overcome the new and daunting challenges that COVID-19 is bringing to aviation, and I am grateful to each one of them for their commitment to taking care of our customers," said United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby. "While omicron is impacting near term demand, we remain optimistic about the spring and excited about the summer and beyond. We look forward to beginning to return the Pratt & Whitney 777s to service this quarter and getting the full airline back to normal utilization—as we ramp up along with demand this year. By investing in innovative technology, focusing on process improvements and implementing a transformative United Next strategy, we're poised to emerge as an aviation leader that's more efficient than before and serves our customers better than ever." (PR)

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities have lifted a monthlong pandemic lockdown on the northern Chinese city of Xi'an and its 13 million residents.

The announcement Monday followed the restart of commercial flights from the city the day before.

Xi'an has been a cornerstone of the ruling Communist Party's "zero tolerance" strategy toward COVID-19 that mandates lockdowns, travel restrictions and mass testing whenever a case is discovered.

Xi'an is about 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) southwest of Beijing, where the Winter Olympics open Feb. 4.

Access to the city was suspended Dec. 22 following an outbreak attributed to the delta variant of the coronavirus.

Meanwhile, the 2 million residents of one Beijing district have been ordered to undergo testing following a series of infections.

The government told people in areas of the Chinese capital deemed at high risk

for infection not to leave the city after 25 cases were found in the Fengtai district and 14 elsewhere.

On Sunday, Fengtai residents lined up on snow-covered sidewalks in freezing weather for testing.

The Olympics are being held under strict controls that are meant to isolate athletes, staff, reporters and officials from the outside world. Athletes are required to be vaccinated or undergo a quarantine after arriving in China.

new employees, park officials have said.

There were also 20% fewer campsites and hotel rooms in 2021 compared to previous years. That meant hundreds of thousands of visitors left the park at night and would re-enter after staying elsewhere. Each time they entered the park counted as a separate visit.

Yellowstone visits hit record high in 2021, straining staff

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, Wyo. (AP)—A record number of visitors flocked to Yellowstone National Park last year despite fewer hotel rooms and campsites being available because of the coronavirus pandemic

and construction projects.

About 4.86 million visits were tallied in 2021, breaking the prior record set in 2016. It's a million more people than visited in 2020.

Known worldwide for its wolves, bears and other wild-

life and thermal features such as the Old Faithful geyser, Yellowstone will mark its 150th anniversary in 2022. It straddles the borders of northwestern Wyoming, southern Montana and eastern Idaho.

Visits to national parks

across the U.S. have been trending up in recent years. Others such as Utah's Zion National Park also set new visitor records in 2021 as tourism bounced back from the shutdowns imposed during the early days of the pandemic.

At Yellowstone, a rush of people from May through September last year strained employees and park services. It came as the park was understaffed through the summer because of worker housing caps and difficulty recruiting



Visitors are seen at Grand Prismatic Spring in Yellowstone National Park, Wyo. on May 1, 2021.

Nation

New conservative target: Race as factor in COVID treatment

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Some conservatives are taking aim at policies that allow doctors to consider race as a risk factor when allocating scarce COVID-19 treatments, saying the protocols discriminate against white people.

The wave of infections brought on by the omicron variant and a shortage of treatments have focused at-

tention on the policies.

Medical experts say the opposition is misleading. Health officials have long said there is a strong case for considering race as one of many risk factors in treatment decisions. And there is no evidence that race alone is being used to decide who gets medicine.

The issue came to the forefront last week after Fox News

host Tucker Carlson, former President Donald Trump and Republican Sen. Marco Rubio jumped on the policies. In recent days, conservative law firms have pressured a Missouri-based health care system, Minnesota and Utah to drop their protocols and sued New York state over allocation guidelines or scoring systems that include race

as a risk factor.

JP Leider, a senior fellow in the Division of Health Policy and Management at the University of Minnesota who helped develop that state's allocation criteria, noted that prioritization has been going on for some time because there aren't enough treatments to go around.

"You have to pick who

comes first," Leider said. "The problem is we have extremely conclusive evidence that (minorities) across the United States are having worse COVID outcomes compared to white folks. ... Sometimes it's acceptable to consider things like race and ethnicity when making decisions about when resources get allocated at a societal level."

Data also show that minorities have been missing out on treatments. Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published an analysis of 41 health care systems that found that Black, Asian and Hispanic patients are less likely than whites to receive outpatient antibody treatment.

Considerable evidence suggests that COVID-19 has hit certain racial and ethnic groups harder than whites. Research shows that people of color are at a higher risk of severe illness, are more likely to be hospitalized and are dying from COVID-19 at younger ages.

Since the pandemic began, health care systems and states have been grappling with how to best distribute treatments. The problem has only grown worse as the omicron variant has packed hospitals with COVID-19 patients.

Cruise ship changes course after US judge orders seizure

MIAMI (AP)—A cruise ship that was supposed to dock in Miami has instead sailed to the Bahamas, after a U.S. judge granted an order to seize the vessel as part of a lawsuit over millions of dollars in unpaid fuel.

Cruise trackers show Crystal Symphony currently docked in the Bahamian island of Bimini.

"We all feel we were abducted by luxurious pirates!" passenger Stephen Heard Fales posted on Facebook.

Some passengers were taken by ferry to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale on Sunday. The ferry ride was apparently "uncomfortable due to inclement weather," according to a statement from a Crystal Cruises spokesperson. The company said guests were also taken to local airports, but wouldn't comment on any "pending legal matters."

It was unclear how many passengers were aboard, with one news outlet reporting 300 and another, 700. According to the company website, the vessel can carry up to 848 passengers.



The cruise liner Crystal Symphony leaves the harbor in Charleston, S.C. on May, 21, 2013. AP

The ship was scheduled to arrive in Miami on Saturday. But a federal judge in Miami issued an arrest warrant for the ship Thursday, a maritime practice where a U.S. Marshal goes aboard a vessel and takes charge of it once it enters U.S. waters.

Passengers and entertainers said on social media they were

surprised to find out about the legal case. One guest posted a letter on Facebook from Crystal Cruises Management that said the change in itinerary was due to "non-technical operational issues."

The lawsuit was filed in a Miami federal court by Peninsula Petroleum Far East

against the ship under a maritime procedure that allows actions against vessels for unpaid debts. The complaint says Crystal Symphony was chartered or managed by Crystal Cruises and Star Cruises, which are both sued for breach of contract for allegedly owing \$4.6 million in fuel.

US draws down Ukraine embassy presence as war fears mount

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department on Sunday ordered the families of all American personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine to leave the country amid heightened fears of a Russian invasion.

The department told the dependents of staffers at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv that they must leave the country. It also said that non-essential embassy staff could leave Ukraine at government expense.

The move came amid rising tensions about Russia's military buildup on the Ukraine border that were not eased during talks Friday between Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Geneva.

State Department officials stressed the Kyiv embassy will remain open and that the announcement does not constitute an evacuation. The move had been under consideration for some time and does not reflect an easing of U.S. support

for Ukraine, the officials said.

In a statement, the State Department noted recent reports that Russia was planning significant military action against Ukraine. However, the Russian Foreign Ministry

has accused NATO countries of escalating tensions around Ukraine with disinformation.

The State Department added: "The security conditions, particularly along Ukraine's borders, in Russia-occupied Crimea, and

in Russia-controlled eastern Ukraine, are unpredictable and can deteriorate with little notice. Demonstrations, which have turned violent at times, regularly occur throughout Ukraine, including in Kyiv."



Members of Ukraine's Territorial Defense Forces, volunteer military units of the Armed Forces, train in a city park in Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022. AP

In mourning yet again, NYC prepares to honor fallen officer

NEW YORK (AP)—A city reeling from a recent spate of violence prepared to lay to rest a rookie police officer being hailed as an inspiration to his immigrant community, as investigators sought to make sense of a domestic dispute that left another officer "fighting for his life."

Funeral services for New York City Police Officer Jason Rivera were being finalized, as his comrades in blue mourned the loss of the 22-year-old who joined the force to make a difference in what he had described as a "chaotic city."

A solemn scene unfolded Sunday with a column of uniformed police officers, as well as a line of firefighters, flanking the streets as a hearse carrying the fallen officer left the medical examiner's office.

Burial rites were scheduled for Friday, city officials said, with services Thursday at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Rivera and Officer Wilbert Mora were shot Friday

night while answering a call about an argument between a woman and her adult son. Mora, 27, suffered a serious head wound, police said.

During a Sunday morning appearance on CNN, Mayor Eric Adams stressed the urgency "to deal with the underlying issues that are impacting crime in our city and has become a stain on the inner cities across our country."

He said his police force would revamp a plainclothes anti-crime unit aimed at getting guns off the streets. The unit had been disbanded in 2020 over concerns it accounted for a disproportionate number of shootings and

complaints.

"The symbol of that soiled coat with red blood is really what we're talking about here in not only New York City, but across America," Adams said.

The medical examiner ruled Rivera's death a homicide after an autopsy found he died from gunshot wounds to the head and torso.

Mora, who has been with the NYPD for four years, remained in life-threatening condition, Adams said Sunday. Police said he would be transferred from Harlem Hospital to NYU Langone Medical Center.

"It just really has impacted our entire city, if not the entire country. And this is coming after having five officers shot, the 11-month baby shot in Brooklyn," the mayor said.

The shooting is the latest in a string of crimes that have unnerved the nation's most populous city and the country's largest police force, with 36,000 officers.

In the three weeks since Adams took office, a 19-year-old cashier was shot to death as she worked a late-night shift at a Burger King, a woman was pushed to her death in a subway station, and a baby was critically injured by a stray bullet while in a parked car with her mother. With the Harlem shooting Friday night, four police officers had been shot in as many days.

The man police say opened fire Friday, Lashawn J. McNeil, 47, was also critically wounded and hospitalized. Details about what led to the deadly confrontation were still emerging.

World

Aid group says death toll from Yemen prison airstrike at 87

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia rejects UK claim of trying to replace Ukraine leader

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's Foreign Ministry on Sunday rejected a British claim that the Kremlin is seeking to replace Ukraine's government with a pro-Moscow administration, and that former Ukrainian lawmaker Yevheniy Murayev is a potential candidate. Britain's Foreign Office on Saturday also named several other Ukrainian politicians it said had links with Russian intelligence services, along with Murayev who is the leader of a small party that has no seats in parliament. Those politicians include Mykola Azarov, a former prime minister under Viktor Yanukovych, the Ukrainian president ousted in a 2014 uprising, and Yanukovych's former chief of staff, Andriy Kluyev.

Authorities: 17 dead in nightclub fire in Cameroon's capital

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP)—A fire erupted at a popular nightclub in the Cameroon capital of Yaounde, setting off explosions that killed at least 17 people and seriously injured seven others, government officials said Sunday. The tragedy comes as the central African country hosts thousands of soccer players, fans and officials from across the continent for the month-long African Cup of Nations soccer tournament. It was not immediately clear what had sparked the fire at Liv's Nightclub Yaouba in the capital's Bastos neighborhood. Workers there initially said it was caused by a short circuit. However, a government statement later Sunday suggested that fireworks had ignited the building's roof, and then the fire spread to areas where cooking gas was stored. "The tragedy, which was caused by the explosions from fireworks regularly used in these places, first consumed the ceiling of the building and

then caused two strong explosions," government spokesman Rene Emmanuel Sadi said.

Seoul says it paid Iran's delinquent UN dues to restore vote

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Using Iranian bank funds freed from American sanctions, South Korea has paid Iran's \$18 million in delinquent dues owed to the United Nations, Seoul said Sunday. The step was apparently approved by Washington to restore Tehran's suspended voting rights at the world body. The South Korean Foreign Ministry said Seoul had paid the sum using Iranian assets frozen in the country after consulting with the United States Treasury—a potential signal of flexibility amid floundering nuclear negotiations. The ministry said it expected Iran's voting rights to be restored immediately after their suspension earlier this month for delinquent dues. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Gunfire near home of Burkina Faso's leader after army mutiny

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—Gunfire rang out late Sunday near the home of Burkina Faso's embattled President Roch Marc Christian Kabore, raising the specter that a military coup might still be under way after mutinous soldiers seized a military base earlier in the day. Government officials had sought to reassure people that the situation was under control even as shots rang out for hours at the army base. But by day's end anti-government protesters supporting the mutineers also had set fire to a building belonging to Kabore's party. It was not immediately known whether Kabore was at home but several people in the area told The Associated Press that in addition to gunfire they could hear

helicopters hovering overhead. A mutinous soldier also told AP by phone that heavy fighting was under way near the presidential palace, a claim that could not immediately be independently corroborated.

News report: Australian leader's WeChat account taken over

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison's account on Chinese-owned social media platform WeChat was taken over and renamed, and a lawmaker on Monday accused China's leaders of political interference. Morrison's 76,000 WeChat followers were notified his page had been renamed "Australian Chinese new life" earlier this month and his photograph had been removed, Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper reported. The changes were made without the government's knowledge, the report said. Morrison's office declined to comment on the report.

Armenia's president resigns, says office has no power

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP)—The president of Armenia has announced his resignation, complaining that his office is not granted sufficient powers to allow him to be an effective head of state. Armen Sarkissian was chosen as president by the national parliament in 2018 as Armenia was transitioning from a presidential system of government to a parliamentary one. He was recommended for the job by outgoing President Serzh Sargsyan. In his resignation statement Sunday, Sarkissian said when he decided to take the post, "I was relying on the proposal made to me, according to which the new presidential institution will have tools, opportunities to influence foreign policy, economic, investment policy." But, he said, "the president does not have the necessary tools."

CAIRO (AP)—Workers in war-wrecked Yemen recovered five more bodies from the rubble of a prison facility hit by a Saudi-led coalition airstrike, bringing the death toll to at least 87, an international aid group said Sunday.

Internet access, meanwhile, remained largely down after another Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a telecommunications center Friday at the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, according to advocacy group NetBlocks. The center is key to Yemen's connection to the internet.

Ahmed Mahat, head of the Doctors Without Borders mission in Yemen, said rescuers completed their search efforts late Saturday at the site of the prison in Yemen's northern province of Saada, a stronghold of Houthi rebels on the border of Saudi Arabia.

He said 266 people were wounded in the airstrike during an intense air and ground escalation in the country's civil war.

Yemen's conflict began in 2014, when the Iranian-backed Houthis took the

capital, Sanaa, and much of northern Yemen, forcing the government to flee to the south, then to exile in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi-led coalition, backed at the time by the U.S., entered the war months later to try restoring the government to power.

Late Sunday, a Houthi ballistic missile landed in an industrial area in Jazan, Saudi Arabia, slightly wounding a foreigner, the Saudi-led coalition said according to the state-run news agency. There was no immediate comment from the Houthis.

In celebration of her new life...



Emily Valles Vargas

March 29, 1960 – January 13, 2022

Survived By Her Family

RIPARIP, Eduardo

- Ronald Joy & Ana Marie Diarez (Patricia Danielle, Gabrielle Joy, Eduardo)
- Cristy Anne Joy & Edwin Ramos (Ma. Kiersten Charrize, Elnathan, Kadmielle \ Dwyane, Enzo)
- Eduard Joy & Kimberly Joy Riparip (Althea Samantha and Adam)
- Ryan Joy & Ma.Ellen Riparip (Ma.Ellaine Joy, Jaden Lorence, Heven Brielle)
- Cherry Ann Joy & Jhon Lerry Arabit (Aimielle Santino and Ainieyella ShAuntEzA)
- † Cathy Ann Joy Riparip

VARGAS, Eugenio Jr.

- Mike Aries Valles Vargas (Arye Minato Keao Vargas)
- Mikky Aries Valles Vargas

Memorial Service

January 26, 2022, Wednesday | 6:30pm

Garapan Central Park (Roundhouse), Garapan, Saipan, USA



"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." - Revelation 21: 4

Overdrive

New vehicles to be rated on how they make drivers stay alert

DETROIT (AP)—Two organizations that influence many Americans' automobile buying decisions will begin rating vehicles on how well they track behavior of motorists who use partially automated driver-assist systems.

Consumer Reports and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety say the ratings will factor into scores for new models starting this year. Automobile buyers often turn to both groups to judge the safety of vehicles.

The new ratings, announced Thursday, come as the auto industry struggles with how to make sure drivers stay alert as the systems take on more driving functions. Plus, the systems are being offered in more new vehicles.

Both groups say research shows drivers often rely too much on the computerized systems, even though they cannot drive vehicles themselves. At times, the systems have made mistakes and drivers have failed to take action—with deadly consequences. Some automakers have oversold the systems' abilities in advertising, both groups said.

The organizations say they are stepping in with ratings and standards because at present there are none from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the U.S. government's auto safety agency. NHTSA said in a statement that it's researching the monitoring systems to establish benchmarks and get driver data for possible future actions. Both Consumer Reports and IIHS hope that automakers will respond with more robust monitoring systems.

"Keeping drivers focused on the road and the vehicle is critical for the safe use of partially automated driving systems,"

said David Harkey, president of IIHS, an industry group that has shamed automakers into making safety improvements with its rankings.

Partially automated systems, with trade names such as "Autopilot," "Super Cruise," and "ProPilot Assist," vary in levels of sophistication. Some are a combination of lane-centering technology and advanced cruise control, which will adjust speed to keep a vehicle away from those in front of it. Others can change lanes on their own. Most use cameras and some have radar sensors.

But drivers are able to ig-

nore some of the monitoring systems, especially with Tesla, which led the industry by rolling out its "Autopilot" driver-assist system in 2015. Government officials say no self-driving cars are available for sale and that drivers must be ready to take action at all times.

For example, in 2018, a Tesla operating on Autopilot crashed into a freeway barrier in Mountain View, California, killing the driver. The National Transportation Safety Board found that the driver likely was distracted by a cell phone video game.

NHTSA has opened a formal investigation into Teslas on Au-

pilot crashing into emergency vehicles parked on roadways. A message was left Thursday seeking comment from Tesla.

Some companies, such as General Motors, Ford, Tesla, BMW and Subaru, have cameras that watch a driver to make sure their eyes are on the road. Others only check for hands on the steering wheel. But since there are no federal standards, some monitoring can be turned off by drivers, while others don't take enough action to make drivers pay attention, both organizations said.

There is no evidence that the driving systems make vehicles

safer, and research shows they could be less safe if the systems don't make sure drivers are engaged, Harkey said.

"There are studies that go back probably 80 years that show humans are pretty bad about just watching automation happen," said Jake Fisher, senior director of Consumer Reports' Auto Test Center. "It's just too easy to get bored and let your attention wander."

Currently, the partially automated systems aren't widely used. Harkey said the systems are a "single digit" percentage of the roughly 280 million vehicles on U.S. roadways.

But they're being offered on a growing number of vehicles. Consumer Reports found last fall that they're available on about half of all new models.

At present, no driver monitoring systems meet the standards set by IIHS, Harkey said. To earn a coveted "good" rating, the systems have to have multiple types of alerts reminding a driver to look at the road. They also have to make a driver place hands on the steering wheel if they've looked away. If a driver fails to respond, the systems should slow the vehicles to a crawl or stop, IIHS said.

"We're hoping and we think that the automakers will respond and they'll start to add more robust features into their vehicles that have these systems," Harkey said.

In the past, automakers have re-engineered the front structure of models that didn't pass an IIHS crash test that simulated striking a tree.

Ratings are expected to start this year, but that could be delayed if vehicles aren't available for testing due to the global shortage of semiconductors.

Starting with ratings that come out in February, Consumer Reports will add two points to the overall score it gives vehicles if their systems monitor drivers to encourage safety, Fisher said. This year, only General Motors' "Super Cruise" and Ford's "Blue Cruise" systems will get the extra points, he said.

That means the cost-savings from the famous "Toyota Way" of lean manufacturing, based on having as little inventory as possible for "just-in-time" production, may no longer pay off, said Fini.

"The recent experience of these input shortages is forcing automakers to go against everything they have done in the past 30 years when it comes to supply chain management," he said.

"Carmakers are now considering taking on inventory for certain parts because, in relative terms, it costs peanuts to have that inventory compared with having a line stoppage."

Toyota production in Japan hit by parts crunch from COVID-19



(AP PHOTO/KOJI SASAHARA, FILE)

A man walks by the logo on a Toyota car at a showroom in Tokyo on Oct. 18, 2021. The shortage of parts caused by the coronavirus pandemic is further denting production at Toyota, Japan's top automaker.

Supplies are running short because of a lack of computer chips, which are crucial in auto parts. Plants in and out of Japan have undergone lockdowns and stoppages related to COVID-19 measures. Toyota has not given details.

Production in January will be reduced by 47,000 vehicles, when accounting for the latest changes, according to Toyota. For the fiscal year through March, production will now

fall short of the 9 million vehicles the automaker had targeted, despite healthy demand for Toyota offerings. All manufacturers are scrambling to secure the tight chips supply, worsening the crunch, Toyota said.

"We are doing our utmost to

deliver our vehicles to our customers as soon as possible," it

said in a statement. "We deeply apologize."

Toyota has periodically re-

leased information about COVID-19 among its workers. Toyota said four workers at a line at Tsutsumi plant in Toyota city, Aichi prefecture, became sick, so it was shut down. Earlier in the week, 14 workers tested positive at another line at the same factory, shutting down daytime operations for four days.

The pandemic has disrupted not only the auto sector but various areas, including ship-

MOTORMOUTH: What's wrong with the A/C?

Q: My 2017 Honda Pilot with the Touring package has 56,000 miles and is a wonderful vehicle except for the air conditioning. At various times while on long trips, the A/C blows warm air. Changing temperatures or switching on and off does not change the temp. The only hope is to turn the engine off for about 90 minutes before driving again. We can't do that until reaching our destination. The authorized Honda dealer's repair shop cannot find a problem and assures us the A/C system is in good working order. They suggest bringing the vehicle in when the problem occurs. That isn't possible because it occurs on long trips. What can I do to solve

this problem?

A: It gives me a warm feeling getting an air conditioning question in the winter. The A/C removes humidity as it cools. That water vapor then becomes liquid water that drains out of the HVAC housing by way of a rubber tube. If the tube gets clogged, the water collects on the evaporator coils and turns to ice. The ice then blocks airflow. Turning off the A/C (need not turn off the engine) allows the ice to melt. Solution: Have the tube cleaned.

Q: My daughter drives a 2003 Toyota Camry. The car has no TPMS so I've just put pressure monitoring valve caps on her tires. Seems like a great way to visually keep an eye on the pressure while

she is away at school. Curious if you've had any experience with these. Is there a risk of the caps loosening, which would slowly deflate the tire?

A: I have used them, but not for a while. They were kind of accurate but have probably been improved since then. Although not as accurate as the tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS), they will at least alert you to a drop in pressure. Don't worry about them getting loose.

Q: I've read in your column and elsewhere about the value of catalytic converters. In 2013, I purchased a new Ford Taurus SHO. I had it super tuned, which included replacing the exhaust system with less restrictive convert-

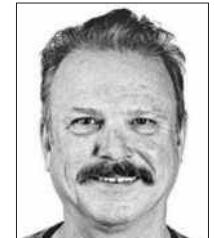
ers. I have the original factory converters. My question: How do I go about legally selling them? Thanks ahead for your consideration of my question and response.

A: Auto parts stores usually collect a core charge, which they refund when the old parts are returned. If you have ever bought a battery, you will be familiar with this process. But that core charge refund window has probably closed by now. If the caps are in good condition, an auto recycling/salvage yard may be happy to take them, but don't expect to get much money.

Q: My very handy son-in-law (he's not a kook) firmly believes in keeping at least one car with no computerized

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



components so that he can mechanically fix anything that goes wrong—kind of like the people in Cuba who are still repairing classic 20th century American cars with all sorts of fabricated parts. I always wondered about the utility of this idea. But now—

in this era of global trade with chip shortages and supply chain issues—I wonder if he's onto something. What's your take on this?

A: I have heard a similar argument for keeping a landline phone. I must admit, it is not a bad idea.

Life & Style

‘SNL’ comics Jost, Davidson buy Staten Island Ferry boat

NEW YORK (AP)—“Saturday Night Live” comics Colin Jost and Pete Davidson have purchased a decommissioned Staten Island Ferry boat for \$280,100 with plans to turn it into New York’s hottest club.

Jost and Davidson teamed up with comedy club owner Paul Italia on Wednesday’s winning bid for the John F. Kennedy, a 277-foot (84-meter) vessel that shuttled commuters between the New York

City boroughs of Manhattan and Staten Island from 1965 until it was taken out of service last August.

“The Staten Island Ferry is definitely something iconic,” Italia, a real estate investor and co-owner of the restaurant and comedy club The Stand, said Friday. “We wanted to figure out a



Davidson

way to save it and to do something special with it.”

Italia said transforming the 2,109-ton ferry into an entertainment venue will cost millions of dollars and won’t happen anytime soon.

“It’s really early stages here,” he said. “You have a great idea and you’re working on executing it and the first step is the

acquisition of the boat, and I think that that’s the story right now. We were successful in acquiring the boat and making sure it didn’t go into the scrap-yard like the last two.”

Messages seeking comment were sent to representatives of Jost and Davidson, who both grew up on Staten Island and often joke about their home borough and its best-known mode of transport.

Named after the 35th U.S.

‘Spider-Man’ comes back swinging, takes No. 1 from ‘Scream’

ter,” a fairy tale with Pierce Brosnan that was filmed in 2014 and held until now (it bombed with \$750,000 from over 2,000 locations), and “Redeeming Love,” a faith-based historical romance with Nina Dobrev that cracked the top five with \$3.7 million.

“This is a very slow weekend,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “January is typically not a big month for box office. It may be a while before we have another big breakout hit, but once we do the floodgates may open.”

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” \$14.1 million.
2. “Scream,” \$12.4 million.
3. “Sing 2,” \$5.7 million.
4. “Redeeming Love,” \$3.7 million.
5. “The King’s Man,” \$1.8 million.
6. “The 355,” \$1.6 million.
7. “American Underdog,” \$1.2 million.
8. “The King’s Daughter,” \$750,000.
9. “West Side Story,” \$689,000.
10. “Licorice Pizza,” \$683,357.



Attendees dressed as Spider-Man gather during New York Comic Con at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, in New York.

After spending one weekend in second place, “Spider-Man: No Way Home” proved it still had some fight left. Sony’s superhero juggernaut swung back to first place in its sixth weekend in theaters and became the sixth highest grossing film of all time, globally.

The film topped the North American charts with \$14.1 million, according to studio estimates on Sunday. Globally, it’s now grossed nearly \$1.3

billion, passing the total earnings of both “Jurassic World” and “The Lion King.” And in North America its \$721 million make it the fourth biggest release ever.

Peter Parker also stole first place back from “Scream,” which fell about 59%—a typical drop for a horror—in its second weekend with an estimated \$12.4 million in ticket sales. The Paramount release has grossed \$51.3

million so far.

Universal and Illumination’s “Sing 2” landed in third place in its fifth weekend, with \$5.7 million. The animated title has earned \$241.2 million worldwide.

There was little competition for the holdovers to contend with this weekend. The only two fresh offerings nationwide in theaters were comparatively lower-profile releases: “The King’s Daugh-

ter,” a fairy tale with Pierce Brosnan that was filmed in 2014 and held until now (it bombed with \$750,000 from over 2,000 locations), and “Redeeming Love,” a faith-based historical romance with Nina Dobrev that cracked the top five with \$3.7 million.

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Miranda talks about Bruno, the ‘Encanto’ phenomenon

NEW YORK (AP)—A month after “Encanto” debuted in theaters, Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote the movie’s Colombia-inflected songs, took a long vacation. By the time he returned, something almost as extraordinary as the enchanted home of the movie had transpired.

“Encanto” became the first movie soundtrack since 2019 to reach No. 1 on the Billboard charts earlier this month. The film’s most popular song, “We Don’t Talk About Bruno,” became the highest-charting song from a Disney animated film in more than 26 years, ranking higher than even “Let It Go.”

The music of “Encanto” was suddenly everywhere. Everyone was talking about Bruno.

“By the time I got back, ‘We Don’t Talk About Bruno’ had kind of taken over the world along with the rest of the ‘Encanto’ soundtrack,” Miranda says, laughing. “It helps you



Jos

have the perspective of: The opening weekend is not the life of the movie. It’s just the very roughest draft. Two months out, people are talking about Bruno, and his whole family.”

It’s not unusual for songs by Miranda, the composer of “Hamilton” and “In the Heights,” to capture the zeitgeist. But what the soundtrack to “Encanto” is doing, long after it arrived in theaters on Nov. 24, is almost unheard-of—particularly during a pandemic that has muted the ability of movies to make a lasting impression.

“Encanto,” a warm celebration of family centered on the Madrigals, a Colombian clan with magical powers, has been

the most successful animated film at the box office during the pandemic, with \$223 million in ticket sales worldwide.

But the soundtrack explosion—prompted by its Christmas debut on Disney+—has

propelled a rare kind of pop-culture sensation.

Grandchild born to widow calls another man ‘daddy’

DEAR ABBY: My grandson passed away three months before his daughter was born. When she was 6 months old, her mom moved in with her new boyfriend. We were allowed visits for a couple of years, but then that stopped, so we had to take the mom to court to get visitation again.

We learned our visits had been stopped because we referred to her boyfriend by his name instead of “Daddy.” We are not allowed to tell our grandchild who her father is. At what age should a child be told the truth, and how is all this going to affect my granddaughter?

TRUTH TELLER IN THE SOUTH

DEAR TRUTH TELLER: Your former daughter-in-law may prefer her little one call her boyfriend “Daddy” because the man is the only father figure your granddaughter has ever known. The time for her to be told all the facts would be when she’s old enough to understand the information AND her mother chooses to tell her about her biological father. The truth should not negatively affect her.

DEAR ABBY: How do you deal with a relative whose child is autistic when they come for holiday dinners and let their child

climb on the furniture like it’s a playground and walk around the house eating and touching everything with soiled hands?

These parents constantly post about “treating him like a normal child,” but they don’t treat him normal with expectations. I’m tired of having to constantly supervise him and feel intimidated about saying things like, “Please don’t climb on the furniture, sit at the table when you eat, wash your hands, please,” etc. What’s your advice?

TENTATIVE IN FLORIDA

DEAR TENTATIVE: Quit allowing yourself to be “intimidated” and tell these parents you would prefer your socializing to be adults only—for the reasons you stipulated in your letter. Or, when you would like to spend time with them, arrange for it to be al fresco rather than inside your home. (Thank heavens you live in a state with a mild climate!)

DEAR ABBY: I need your thoughts about a good friend who, at the end of the month of my birthday or the first week of the next one, hits me with a birthday card. Then she says she doesn’t know my exact birthdate but at least she remembers the month and, therefore, I should be thankful.

Four years later, I am tempted to tell her if it’s not important

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



enough to remember the day, then why bother? Am I wrong for feeling this way, or should I just be thankful she at least remembers the month?

BIRTHDAY BOY IN TEXAS

DEAR BIRTHDAY BOY: Frankly, you are being a bit picky. Not everyone feels as strongly as you do about personal milestones. That said, however, gratitude can’t be ordered like an item on a takeout menu, which your friend appears to be trying to convince you to do. Because those birthday cards, which are supposed to invoke warm feelings, have the opposite effect, express that you would prefer she save her postage money.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson

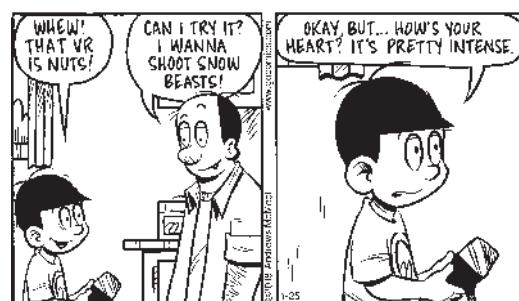


Garfield®

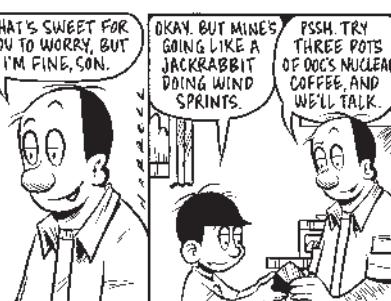


By Jim Davis

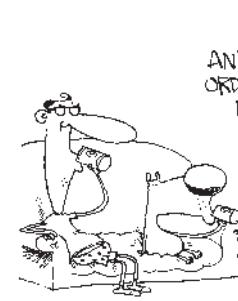
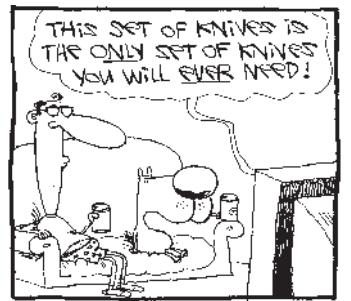
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

| ACROSS | 36 | Dull | 3 | Mend a | 24 | Hi-tech |
|--------|----------------------------|------|----------------------|------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Make over | 38 | Boy king | 4 | Anna | organizer |
| 5 | Lucy of "Kill Bill" | 39 | Mandible | 25 | Very long | time |
| 8 | Sch. for tots | 40 | Gold mold | 26 | Rx writers | |
| 12 | Flair | 43 | Capital of Nicaragua | 27 | Shred | 28 |
| 13 | Leb. neighbor | 47 | Work force | 6 | Caesar's "vidi" | — |
| 14 | Bart's sister | 49 | Reddish brown | 7 | Coffee vessel | dreaming?" |
| 15 | Suffix for million | 50 | Jai — | 8 | Lament | 29 |
| 16 | Kipling poem | 51 | Flamenco cheer | 9 | Anger | Turf |
| 18 | "Even Now" singer | 52 | Pedestal part | 10 | Actor Morales | 31 |
| 20 | "Old Mac- Donald" refrain | 53 | Hari — | 11 | Deck in the ring | Flight stat |
| 21 | French article | 54 | Quirky | 12 | Campus bigwig | 34 |
| 22 | PC linkup | 55 | Swindle | 13 | Permit | Perfect place |
| 23 | Type of wheat | DOWN | 1 | 500 sheets | 14 | Car |
| 26 | Prayerful chants | 2 | Director Kazan | 22 | Young fellow | 35 |
| 30 | Commotion | 3 | | 23 | "Cheers" bartender | Mover's vehicle |
| 31 | Do sums | 4 | | 41 | "The Lion King" | 36 |
| 32 | "As I see it," to a texter | 5 | | 42 | lioness | Prizes |
| 33 | "How-to" books | 6 | | 43 | Bitty biter | 39 |
| | | 7 | | 44 | Blend | Hollywood's Leto |
| | | 8 | | 45 | Avocado dip, for short | 40 |
| | | 9 | | 46 | Fed. food inspector | Mosque VIP |
| | | 10 | | 47 | Physics bit | 41 |
| | | 11 | | 48 | Romance | "The |

Solution time: 22 mins.



Gay's FG lifts Rams over Brady, Buccaneers, 30-27



TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Matthew Stafford stood on the sideline helplessly watching Tom Brady be Tom Brady, leading another exhilarating comeback.

This time, though, the seven-time Super Bowl champion left too much time on the clock, giving Stafford a chance to create some playoff magic of his own.

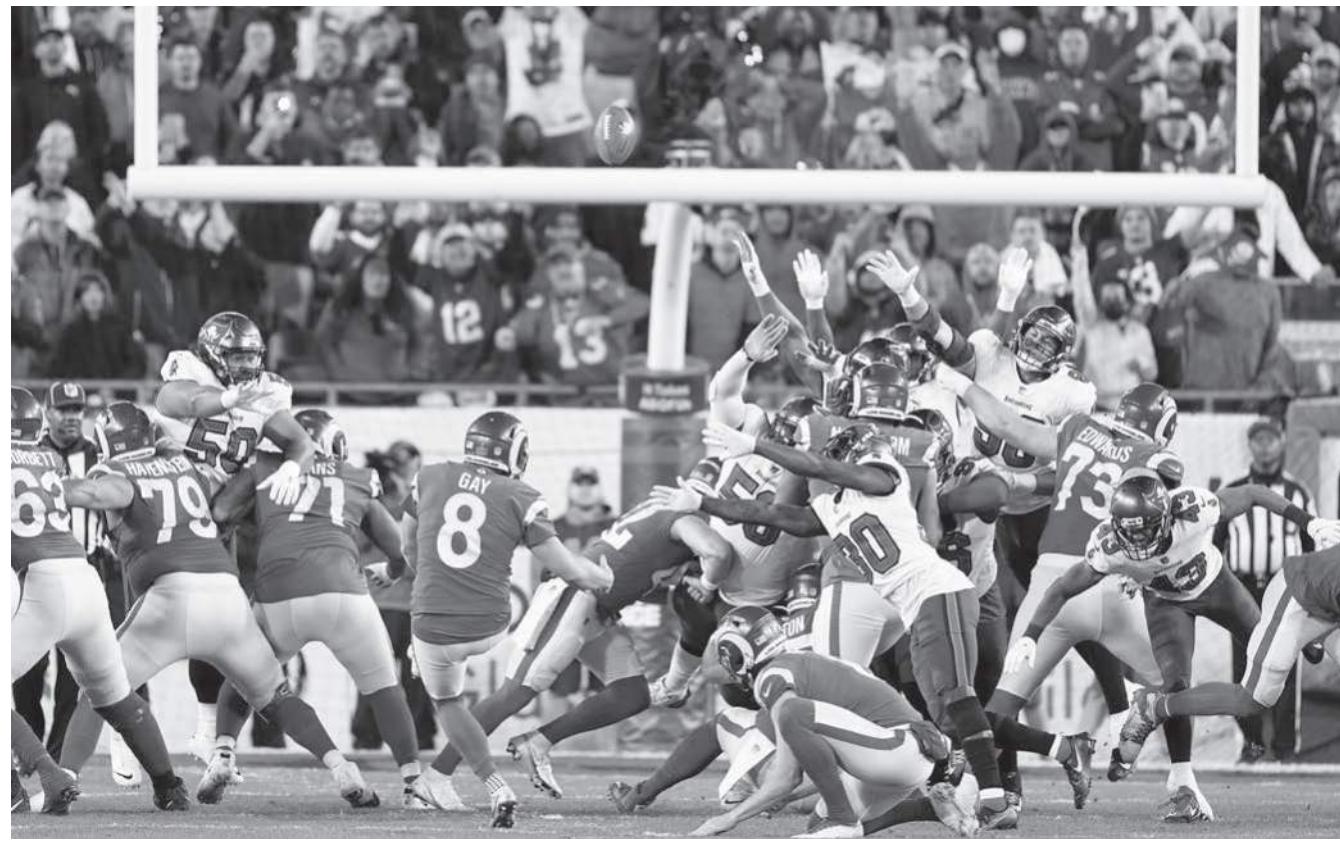
Turns out, 42 seconds was just enough for the Los Angeles quarterback to pull off a Brady-like finish that sent the Rams to the NFC championship game for the second time in four seasons with a 30-27 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy," Stafford said. "I mean, we sure let 'em back in the game with a bunch of mistakes on offense. Our defense played outstanding. We've got to clean some stuff up, do a little better job in the turnover department."

"This is a tough team, man, this is what we're all about. Just happy to get a win and keep on moving."

Stafford threw for 366 yards and two touchdowns without an interception, and the team's biggest offseason acquisition used a pair of long completions to NFL receiving leader Cooper Kupp to position the Rams for Matt Gay's 30-yard field goal as time expired.

"Man, I'm still trying to process everything. That was a crazy game," linebacker Von Miller said after the win over the defending Super Bowl champions. "I knew it was going to come down to the end. All the times that I've played Tom Brady, it always comes down to the end. No lead that we had was safe. I'm so proud of these guys. Everybody's name was called and everybody an-



Los Angeles Rams' Matt Gay (8) kicks a 30-yard field goal to defeat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the second half of an NFL divisional round playoff football game Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, in Tampa, Fla.

swered the bell.

"Nobody was perfect, but we still found a way to win it."

The Rams (14-5) will host next Sunday's NFC title game against the San Francisco 49ers, aiming for a second trip to the Super Bowl in four seasons.

Brady rallied the Bucs from a 27-3 second-half deficit with help from three of the Rams' four turnovers, tying the game on Leonard Fournette's 9-yard run on fourth-and-inches with 42 seconds remaining.

The NFL's all-time passer leader didn't get an opportunity to finish the job.

And it's uncertain if that was the final game for Brady, who's undecided on retirement.

"I haven't put a lot of thought into it," said the 44-year-old quarterback, who led the league with a

career-best 5,136 yards passing while also throwing for a league-high 43 TDs during the regular season.

Stafford, obtained in the offseason in a trade that sent Jared Goff to Detroit, led the Rams downfield after the ensuing kickoff, using completions of 20 and 44 yards to Kupp to set up Gay's third field goal of the day.

"What an interesting game, what an amazing sign of resilience," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "A lot of things didn't go our way in the second half, but guys kept battling and found a way."

Earlier, Stafford found Kupp wide open behind the Bucs secondary on a 70-yard scoring play that put Los Angeles up 17-3 early in the second quarter.

"Man, he's the heart and soul of this offense," Stafford said. "What he's able to do down in, down out, whether

it's in the pass game, run game — he's an unbelievable competitor."

Stafford, who had never won a postseason game before beating Arizona in the previous week's wild-card round, completed 28 of 38 passes without an interception. The 13-year veteran also scored on a 1-yard run.

Brady, meanwhile, completed 30 of 54 passes for 329 yards, one touchdown and one interception. He was sacked three times and lost a fumble.

Fournette also scored on a 1-yard run for Tampa Bay, which pulled within 27-20 on Brady's 55-yard TD throw to Mike Evans, who made the catch with Jalen Ramsey in pursuit with 3:20 left.

"A lot of guys made a bunch of different plays to get us back into it," Brady said. "We got behind. They made us pretty one-dimensional.

We showed a lot of fight. But at the end of the day, when you lose a game you lose a game."

The Bucs (14-5), who lost to the Rams for third time in two seasons, were trying to become the first team to repeat as Super Bowl champions since the Brady-led New England Patriots during the 2004 season.

Stafford completed nine of his first 12 passes for 176 yards and TDs to Kupp and Kendall Blanton to open a 17-3 lead early in the second quarter.

It was 20-3 at halftime, and the Bucs were fortunate their deficit wasn't bigger. With the Rams on the verge of scoring again in the closing seconds of the second quarter, Cam Akers fumbled at the Tampa Bay 1 and Tampa Bay's Antoine Winfield recovered to keep the defending champs to keep from

falling farther behind.

The Rams built the lead to 27-3 on Stafford's quarterback sneak, with help along the way from some uncharacteristic mistakes by the Bucs. That included unsportsmanlike conduct penalties on defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh for taunting and Brady, who was flagged while arguing unsuccessfully for what he felt should have been a penalty on the Rams for a hit that appeared to bloody his lip.

"He got in my face in an aggressive manner and used abusive language," referee Shawn Hochuli told a pool reporter of Suh after the game. "As for the hit, we did not think that it rose to the level of roughing the passer."

The Rams hurt themselves plenty, too, especially while trying to put the game away in the second half.

Kupp, who had nine catches for 183 yards, lost a fumble, and the offense failed to take advantage of Miller sacking Brady to a force a fumble at the Tampa Bay 25 when center Brian Allen snap sailed past Stafford in shotgun formation and recovered by the Bucs.

Finally, Suh forced a second fumble by Akers at the Los Angeles 30, giving Brady an opportunity to tie it in the last two minutes.

"We scratched and clawed. They kept giving us the ball and giving us chances," Evans said. "We took advantage of them, just couldn't get the stop at the end."

The Rams played without LT Andrew Whitworth, who was hurt during the wild-card round victory over Arizona.

Buccaneers CB Carlton Davis left the field favoring his right shoulder late in the first half but finished the game. Punt returner Jaelon Darden left with a possible concussion in the fourth quarter.

juring up playoff magic. He found Hill for 19 yards, then hit Kelce for 25 more. That gave Butker a chance to try a 49-yarder into a slight, chilly breeze as time expired.

Naturally, it split the uprights.

Overtime. A fitting way to end a divisional-round weekend filled with last-second heroics.

Bills CB Micah Hyde left with an undisclosed injury he sustained on the final play of regulation.

Chiefs' Tyrann Mathieu left on the opening drive with a concussion after the Pro Bowl safety was hit by teammate Jarran Reed's knee. CB Charvarius Ward was hurt trying to tackle Allen with 5 1/2 minutes left in the game.

Chiefs rally past Buffalo 42-36 in OT in wild playoff game

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Patrick Mahomes found Travis Kelce in the corner of the end zone from 8 yards early in overtime, and the Kansas City Chiefs rallied to beat the Buffalo Bills 42-36 on Sunday night in a sizzling finish to a wild divisional-round weekend.

The lead changed hands three times in the final two minutes of regulation before Harrison Butker, who earlier missed a field goal and extra point, drilled a 49-yarder for Kansas City as time expired to force overtime.

The Chiefs won the coin toss, marched swiftly downfield against the NFL's top-

ranked but exhausted defense, and right into their fourth straight AFC title game. They'll play the Bengals next Sunday night for a spot in the Super Bowl.

Mahomes finished with 378 yards passing and three touchdowns, including a 64-yarder to Tyreek Hill during the thrilling final minutes of regulation and the clutch throw to Kelce that sent players streaming off the bench.

"The guys didn't flinch," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "You talk about an epic game, well, that's the way the players took it. They had tremendous respect for Buffalo and they knew it was going to be

a battle and they kept going."

What was Reid's advice for

Mahomes when the Chiefs

were up against it?

"When it's grim, be the grim reaper, and go get it," Reid said. "He made everyone around him better."

Josh Allen was pretty good, too. He threw a go-ahead touchdown pass to Gabriel Davis with 1:54 left in the regulation, then another to Davis—his playoff-record fourth TD catch—with 13 seconds remaining in regulation.

Allen's only mistake? Calling tails on the coin toss for overtime.

He finished with 329 yards passing, and Davis with eight

catches for 201 yards, as the Bills — who had beaten the Chiefs in October — lost their ninth straight road playoff game dating to their last victory in the 1992 season's AFC championship.

In a playoff game for the history books Sunday night, the Bills and Chiefs played 58 minutes that few will remember. And about two minutes and an overtime that few will forget.

The Chiefs were leading 26-21 when Allen, who had been nearly perfect all night, connected with Davis for the third time in the game—a fourth-and-13 dart that gave the Bills the lead.

Allen hit Davis right between the numbers, their 19-yard strike giving him the postseason-record, but not the victory.

Not to be outdone, the Chiefs answered when Mahomes found Hill over the middle. The fleet-footed wide receiver ran away from cornerback Levi Wallace for a 64-yard touchdown that gave Kansas City the lead back.

Then it was the Bills' turn. Allen threw a 28-yard pass to Davis, hit him again for 12 yards, then found Emmanuel Sanders to give coach Sean McDermott's team a chance with 17 seconds on the clock.

Allen hit Davis right between the numbers, their 19-yard strike giving him the postseason-record, but not the victory.

Mahomes wasn't done con-

Heat waste most of big lead, hold on to top Lakers



MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat knew the run was coming. Even early in the fourth quarter, with a 23-point lead, Heat players were telling each other that the game wasn't over.

They were right. And they handled the moment — then moved atop the Eastern Conference.

Jimmy Butler broke LeBron James' record for triple-doubles in a Miami uniform, Duncan Robinson scored 25 points and the Heat held off a furious comeback attempt from the Los Angeles Lakers on the way to a 113-107 win on Sunday night.

"I think those are important experiences to go through together," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

The win, combined with losses by Brooklyn and Chicago, put Miami (30-17) at the top of the East, a half-game ahead of the Nets (29-17) and a game clear of the Bulls (28-17).

Butler finished with 20 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists for Miami, his 10th regular-season triple-double for the Heat — one more than James had in his four Miami seasons.

Miami led 89-70 going into the fourth, pushed the lead out to 23 with 8:38 left, then had to stave off what became a 32-13 Los Angeles run that got the Lakers within four in the final moments.

"To have those kind of pivotal moments down the stretch, you can never have enough of those," Robinson said. "They're invaluable."

Caleb Martin scored 15, Bam Adebayo scored 14 and Gabe Vincent had 11 for Miami, which wasted most of a 26-point first-half lead.

James carried the Lakers yet again, finishing with 33 points — his 17th consecutive game with at least 26 — and 11 rebounds. Russell Westbrook scored 24 for the Lakers, former Heat guard Avery Bradley added 15 and Carmelo Anthony scored 11.

"I'm in one of the best zones offensively I've been in in my career," James said.

The Heat were still without Kyle Lowry (personal matter) and Tyler Herro (health and safety protocols). It was the fourth consecutive missed game for Lowry, the third for Herro.

The Lakers were without Anthony Davis for a 17th consecutive game while he continues recovery from a sprained left knee ligament. Davis was listed as questionable for Sunday, raising the chance he could have finally returned, but the Lakers decided he needed



Tobias Harris added 18 points and 11 rebounds and Furkan Korkmaz had 17 points for Philadelphia. The 76ers have won seven straight over the Spurs.

Jakob Poeltl had 25 points and 10 rebounds and Dejounte Murray added 19 points and 12 assists for San Antonio.

After trailing by as many as 15 points in the fourth quarter, the Spurs closed to 111-109 on Murray's steal and breakaway layup with 33.2 seconds remaining as part of an 8-4 run. Embiid would seal the victory with a pair of free throws with 14.9 seconds left.

Magic 114, Bulls 95

In Orlando, Fla., Moritz Wagner scored 23 points, younger brother Franz Wagner added 18, and Orlando defeated a short-handed Chicago team.

DeMar DeRozan scored a season-high 41 points for Chicago, while Coby White had 22 points. Nikola Vucevic hit two of Chicago's five 3-pointers and scored 13 points to go with his 13 rebounds before fouling out.

Ending a nine-game home losing streak, the Magic won at home for just the third time this season — and the first since Dec. 1. Wendell Carter Jr. had 19 points and seven rebounds for an Orlando team that led by as much as 20 points in the second half and had to withstand a third-quarter run by the Bulls.

DeRozan scored at least 30 points for the 12th time this season, but the Bulls dropped to 9-3 in those games. Chicago had just nine players available, and DeRozan scored 20 first-half points.

Hawks 113, Hornets 91

In Charlotte, N.C., Trae Young scored 30 points and tied a season-high with eight 3-pointers, and a streaky Atlanta team defeated a cold-shooting Charlotte team for its fourth straight win.

De'Andre Hunter chipped in with 20 points for the Hawks, who led by 27 in the fourth quarter.

Miles Bridges and LaMelo Ball each finished with 19 points for the Hornets, who missed their first 19 3-point attempts and shot an abysmal 11.1% (4 of 36) from beyond the arc. Ball and Terry Rozier were a combined 0 for 14 from long distance as Charlotte had its three-game win streak snapped.

Knicks 110, Clippers 102

In New York, RJ Barrett had 28 points, 14 rebounds and six assists, and New York beat Los Angeles.

Julius Randle had 24 points and nine rebounds, helping New York stop a three-game slide. Evan Fournier made four of the Knicks' 16 3-pointers and finished with 14 points.

Cam Reddish made his debut for New York after he was acquired from Atlanta in a Jan. 13 trade. The No. 10 pick in the 2019 NBA draft had two points and two rebounds in five minutes of action.

Reggie Jackson scored 26 points for the Clippers, and Ivica Zubac had 17 points and 13 rebounds. Los Angeles has lost seven of its last 10 games.

Nuggets 117, Pistons 111

In Denver, Nikola Jokic scored 34 points, including four free throws in the closing seconds, and Denver held on to beat Detroit.

Jokic also had nine rebounds and eight assists, just missing a fifth straight triple double. Will Barton had 14 points and Aaron Gordon added 13 points for the Nuggets, who went 4-0 on a six-game homestand.

Isaiah Stewart, Cade Cunningham, Cory Joseph and Trey Lyles each scored 18 points for the Pistons, who have lost four of five.

Mavericks 104, Grizzlies 91

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 37 points, 11 rebounds and nine

assists and Kristaps Porzingis had 15 points, eight rebounds and a season-best six blocks as Dallas beat Memphis.

The Mavericks never trailed and led by as many as 22 points in winning for the 11th time in their last 13 games. They took the season series 3-1 and pulled within four games of the Southwest Division-leading Grizzlies.

Ja Morant had 35 points and 13 rebounds for the Grizzlies, going 14 for 31 from the floor while the rest of the team shot 23 for 68 (33.8%).

Timberwolves 136, Nets 125

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards scored 25 points, D'Angelo Russell had 23 points and 10 assists, and Minnesota defeated Brooklyn.

Karl-Anthony Towns overcame a poor shooting night, scoring 15 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter as the Wolves put the game away. Jaylen Nowell added 16 points, Taurean Prince 15 and Jaden McDaniels 14 for Minnesota.

Kyrie Irving scored a game-high 30 points for the Nets, and Patty Mills had 21 points, including five 3-pointers.

Kessler Edwards added 15 points, and James Harden had 13 points and 13 assists for Brooklyn, which is 2-2 since losing leading scorer Kevin Durant to a sprained ligament in his left knee.

Anthony Edwards became the youngest player in NBA history to amass 300 3-pointers at 20 years and 171 days.

76ers 115, Spurs 109

In San Antonio, Texas, Joel Embiid had 38 points and 12 rebounds, and Philadelphia held off a late rally to beat San Antonio.

Auger-Aliassime joins Shapovalov in quarterfinals



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)— Felix Auger-Aliassime and Denis Shapovalov are enjoying quite a run in the Australian sun.

For the first time, two Canadian men have reached the Australian Open quarterfinals.

Auger-Aliassime wore down 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic 2-6, 7-6 (7), 6-2, 7-6 (4) on Monday to join Shapovalov in the last eight.

“I lost three times to Marin. He’s going to come out with his best level and make me earn my win and I’m happy to get through, particularly the way I did it,” the 21-year-old, No. 9-seeded Auger-Aliassime said. “The sun here in Australia hits you pretty hard (but) I feel good.”

The Canadians tuned up for the Australian Open by winning the ATP Cup in Sydney earlier this month, the pair winning their singles matches to defeat Spain in final.

The 22-year-old Shapovalov will play 20-time major winner Rafael Nadal in the quarterfinals on Tuesday in the top half of the men’s bracket. Auger-Aliassime will play U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev on Wednesday.

WHERE IS PENG SHUAI?

Tennis great Martina Navratilova and French player Nicolas Mahut have joined the criticism of Australian Open organizers following a crackdown on activists wearing T-shirts and unfurling banners at the tournament to support Chinese player Peng Shuai.

Mahut said the order for spectators to remove the banners and T-shirts came as Melbourne Park carries signage for 1573, a Chinese distillery.

“What’s going on!” What



of Belgium.

Inspired by watching Rafael Nadal on television, Safi is determined to forge a path for others to follow in Iran where soccer is the major sporting passion.

Safi started playing through the ITF program Junior Tennis Initiative and won six of seven finals during 12 tournaments last year.

“I really had tough times. Playing professional tennis in my country is really hard. I had a really tough time playing tournaments, I couldn’t get visas, I didn’t have sponsors a lot of times. I didn’t have a chance to get a lot of points because I couldn’t play tournaments,” she said.

“In my country, if you ask which sport you like, they say football. I was watching (Nadal) with my mother, we were curious, is there any tennis in Iran? We can just try.”

Safi wears the traditional head covering and long pants which is difficult with the searing temperatures on Melbourne Park’s hard courts.

“I like the sun, but not this much. I’m used to this hijab and this covering. I’ve been playing with this since I was nine. Today was really, really difficult ... but I’m used to it (the hijab) and it doesn’t bother me,” she said.

DOLPHINS

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TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|----|
| Brooklyn | 29 | 17 | .630 | — |
| Philadelphia | 27 | 19 | .587 | 2 |
| Boston | 24 | 24 | .500 | 6 |
| Toronto | 22 | 22 | .500 | 6 |
| New York | 23 | 24 | .489 | 6½ |

Southeast Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Miami | 30 | 17 | .638 | — |
| Charlotte | 26 | 21 | .553 | 4 |
| Washington | 23 | 24 | .489 | 7 |
| Atlanta | 21 | 25 | .457 | 8½ |
| Orlando | 9 | 39 | .188 | 21½ |

Central Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| Chicago | 28 | 17 | .622 | — |
| Milwaukee | 30 | 19 | .612 | — |
| Cleveland | 28 | 19 | .596 | 1 |
| Indiana | 17 | 30 | .362 | 12 |
| Detroit | 11 | 35 | .239 | 17½ |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|
| Memphis | 32 | 17 | .653 | — |
| Dallas | 27 | 20 | .574 | 4 |
| New Orleans | 17 | 28 | .378 | 13 |
| San Antonio | 17 | 30 | .362 | 14 |
| Houston | 14 | 33 | .298 | 17 |

Northwest Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Utah | 30 | 17 | .638 | — |
| Denver | 24 | 21 | .533 | 5 |
| Minnesota | 23 | 23 | .500 | 6½ |
| Portland | 20 | 26 | .435 | 9½ |
| Oklahoma City | 14 | 32 | .304 | 15½ |

Pacific Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Phoenix | 36 | 9 | .800 | — |
| Golden State | 34 | 13 | .723 | 3 |
| L.A. Lakers | 23 | 24 | .489 | 14 |
| L.A. Clippers | 23 | 25 | .479 | 14½ |
| Sacramento | 18 | 30 | .375 | 19½ |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISAIAH

From Page 20

yesterday’s Tsunami Saipan practice.

Litulumar, meanwhile, shredded the opposition in the women’s open after clocking in at 37:44. The 16-year-old MHS student and veteran of the World Championships was followed by SSC’s Jinie

Thompson and Tsunami Saipan’s Aoi Braxton with times of 39:17 and 40:12, respectively.

“Good fun and I enjoyed it,” said Litulumar, who added that she regretted not seeing any turtles or rays during her swim as she was only able to gaze at small fish.

What wasn’t fun though were the large swells she and other swimmers encountered

during the 3K swim.

“The current was very strong and whenever I opened my mouth I drank a lot of saltwater. It was also very cold at the start but after a while I got used to it,” she said.

Asked if she still had stamina for a return swim to Tanapag, Litulumar could only motion her head sideways.

Results of the 14-and-under and masters divisions of the

Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

The Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K was sponsored by the following: Law Office of Janet King, Kerri Bauer Yoga, Aqua Resort Club, Hibiscus Salon, Cha Cafe and Bistro, I Love Saipan Store, Mango Six, Zeno Corp., Aquasmith, Seawind, Sheila Mabutas, and Hardt Eye Clinic.

were able to raise \$675 in donations,” he said.

The fun ride started bright and early at 6:30am with the original route encompassing the Banzai Cliff, La Festa, and back to Banzai Cliff route. Barbo said most of the bikers went up still in Suicide Cliff before everyone enjoyed light breakfast together courtesy of Mario Alvarez Jacob and Ronnie Santos who brought arroz caldo.

FUN

From Page 20

his family’s house also stood no chance against the howling winds of Typhoon Odette.

He said their home was totally “washed out” and he would use the money to buy more materials for the reconstruction of their house.

Aguilar, who missed the turnover of the funds last Jan. 19 at the Oleai Pavilion, said

he will never forget the generosity of their fellow bikers when they took part and donated money during the fun ride in Marpi.

The 63-year-old hails from Bato, Leyte and said their family house also didn’t escape the wrath of Typhoon Odette. Aguilar, who works as a gardener for Tapochao Bushcutting, said he will immediately send the \$225 he received from Barbo and

company so it could help with the repairs of the house.

Barbo, for his part, thanked Saipan’s generous bike community for giving out of their own pockets and donating a total of \$675 to their fellow bikers who were victims of Typhoon Odette.

“I want to thank and appreciate all who supported the event. We had more or less 50 participants. We’re so much happy with the outcome and



ROSELYN B. MONROY
Mt. Carmel School Varsity’s Leo Naraja, right, drives baseline against Da’Ok Academy’s Austin Christopher during their game in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Gay's FG lifts Rams over Brady, Buccaneers, 30-27
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Auger-Aliassime joins Shapovalov in quarterfinals

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20 TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Isaiah, Asaka rule Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K



MARK RABAGO

All 47 participants of Saipan Swim Club's Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K pose for a group photo before the start of the ocean water swim last Saturday at Pau Pau Beach.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

High surf and the cold water didn't deter over 40 swimmers who took part in Saipan Swim Club's Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K last Saturday.

The swiftest in the ocean swim were Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center's Isaiah Alekseenko and Asaka Litulumar who ruled the men's open and women's open, respectively, of the 3-kilometer race from Pau Pau Beach to the Tanapag boat ramp.

Alekseenko topped his division with a time of 34:32

and seemingly shocked everyone when he was the first to emerge from surf. He beat 15th FINA World Swimming Championships campaigners Jinnosuke Suzuki and Juhn Tenorio.

Suzuki was second in a time of 34:34, while SSC's Taiyo Akimaru was a surprise third when he reached the boat ramp in 36:30.



MARK RABAGO

Isaiah Alekseenko, right, races Jinnosuke Suzuki to the shore in Saipan Swim Club's Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K event last Saturday in the waters off the Tanapag boat ramp.

Alekseenko said he and Suzuki were pretty much neck-and-neck at the finish, but now much taller than the Tsunami Saipan co-captain, Alekseenko outran him when they came onto shore.

"Stumbled a bit but I just sprinted at the end to win the race," the 15-year-old Marianas High School student said.

Alekseenko said he enjoyed the Pau Pau to Tanapag 3K despite being a bit nervous at the start.

"I liked it despite the current being very strong."

Tenorio came in fourth among the men after he overestimated the distance.

"I thought the second buoy was the first buoy because I didn't see the first buoy so

I swam past it and was way off course."

To add injury to insult, the 17-year-old MHS student cut his leg trying to catch up with Alekseenko and company.

"I turned around and I was panicking so I kicked off the floor and hit the coral and it cut deep so I had to swim through that coming in and against the current too," he said.

Asked what lesson he learned from the mishap, Tenorio smiled and said, "Lookout for the first buoy!"

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiroyuki Kimura said Tenorio had a quick visit to the hospital after the event, but is now in good spirits. He served as Kimura's assistant coach and

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Fun ride raises \$675 for Typhoon Odette victims

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Dean Oscillos, Boboy Aguilar, and Renato Gaviola equally divided the \$675



MARK RABAGO

Dean Oscillos, left, and Renato Gaviola, middle, show the \$225 they received from a bike fun ride donation drive coordinated by Wilfredo Barbo, right, during a turnover ceremony last week at the Oleai Pavilion. Not on photo is Boboy Aguilar.

raised by a fun ride donation

drive initiated by Wilfredo Barbo last Jan. 14 in Marpi for Saipan victims of Typhoon Odette (Rai) which struck central Philippines last

Oscillos thanked Barbo and others who coordinated the fundraising bike ride. A member of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter who works for Joeten Superstore, the 57-year-old said his family's house in Limasawa Island, Leyte was destroyed by the catastrophic tropical cyclone.

He said the \$225 he received from Barbo and company will go a long way in

reconstructing their house in the Philippines.

Like Oscillos, Renato Gaviola, a native of Ubay, Bohol, also extended his appreciation to organizers of the fun ride fundraiser for the \$225 he received. The 55-year-old staff of Success International said

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Dolphins, Knights prevail in high school hoops

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marianas High School and Mt. Carmel School won their respective debuts in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Dolphins got the better of Saipan International School. They led 14-7 after the first half before keeping the Geckos in arm's length in the second half to score the 20-17 win.

MHS was led by the 6 points of Raven Francisco, while Christian Ilo, Kerby

See DOLPHINS on Page 19



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Saipan International School's Charlie McDonald's, beats Marianas High School's Kerby Manganti in the rebound play during their game in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Friday at the MHS Gymnasium.